

DUDLEY CHRONICLE



Thursday, May 23, 2012

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Movie shack

Paul builds a cinema in his own garden shed

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Future folk

Musician leading fight for survival of small clubs

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A high five

Karate youngsters bring home the silverware

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Clean up then pay up over old pub

DUDLEY Council could step in to clean up a pub in the town, before serving the site's owner with the bill for the works.

Residents say the boarded-up King Arthur pub, on the corner of Priory Road and Birmingham New Road, has become a stain on the area since it closed two years ago.

This week Councillor Ken Finch promised to meet council officers to discuss how approved plans for the pub, which was damaged by fire in January, could be brought forward.

He said the council was having difficulty contacting the site owner – but if it failed, would take matters into its own hands and clean up the site, passing on the bill to the owner.

Councillor Finch said: "The pub stands at the gateway to the town, but rather than welcome people in, it looks a horrible, decaying site which does no good for us.

"The building is damaged and there is mess lying around the site and on the car park – something needs to be done because it has gone on too long."

In December, then-owner Amrinder Singh was given consent to demolish the pub. Last June, Dudley Council granted permission for a 70-bedroom hotel at the site.

Prank alert for schools

POLICE are urging schools in Dudley and Sandwell to warn pupils of the dangers of a foolish prank in which youngsters on skates hitch rides on the back of buses.

The alert follows a photograph featured in the local press showing five teenagers clinging to the back of a bus at the Quarry Bank border with Cradley Heath, being towed along by their skates.

West Midlands Police Inspector Dez Lambert said: "These youths are putting themselves and other road users in danger, which is an offence."

ZOO HAS SIGHTS ON HIPPODROME

by Andrew Turton

DUDLEY Zoo has revealed multi-million pound plans for a new education and conference centre on the site of the former Dudley Hippodrome.

It comes as campaigners, who are battling to save the theatre, were given hope that some of their ideas could be used at other venues in the borough. Peter Sudcock, the zoo's chief executive, said the plans would incorporate a geology centre with access to the limestone Stores Cavern beneath the zoo. It would help highlight the Castle Hill's unique history as part of a prehistoric seabed, educating visitors on creatures called the trilobite, also known as the Dudley Bug.

Major £10 million plans for Castle Hill are already under way with a new visitor entrance in the pipeline to help the zoo link up better with the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

Mr Sudcock said a European funding bid for the new centre would be submitted next year with a hope that work would get underway in 2015/16 and be integrated into the Castle Hill programme.

He said: "It's all come at a great time – we will be able to incorporate the plans into our new entrance and car park and the new centre will be a natural addition to the development."

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks said the council was committed to working with the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome to accommodate some of their proposals, such as theatre workshops, at other venues.

Campaigners

But he added an independent survey of the campaigners' business plan for running the theatre said the council would have to subsidise the project to the tune of between £5m to £10m which he said could not be justified.

Campaign leader Geoff Fitzpatrick dismissed those figures, adding: "There has been a feeling for some time that this was likely to be the case because reports indicated but not explicitly that the building was purchased to support the council's plans for the Zoo, Black Country Living Museum and the Canal Trust and as it's closer to the Zoo it seemed logical that it would be the prime consideration."

"The ideas of a conference centre, education facility etc are all in the business plan put forward last November and if they want to build a tourist centre what about the site of the demolished Plaza Cinema or better still use the rooms in the Hippodrome."

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Castle besieged by zulu-lus



Members of Zulu Tradition prepare to take over the 11th century courtyard at Dudley Castle at the heart of Dudley Zoological Gardens.

AFRICAN warriors will be hoping to conquer Dudley Castle as Zulu dancers and musicians perform in the courtyard to mark next week's Bank Holiday.

Members of educational company, Zulu Tradition, will entertain visitors to Dudley Zoo and Castle, performing two shows on the day. They will perform traditional song and dance routines incorporating Zulu psalms, all while wearing ethnic costumes and beadwork. Performances will start with

dogs enclosure – where zoo keepers will organise activities with the animals to illustrate natural behaviour like hunting and tracking – and lead to the courtyard for the performances.

Company spokesman Thanda Gumede, said: "Through rhythmic percussion, vibrant dance and soul-stirring harmony singing we hope to give visitors a powerful and true taste of Zulu life. Everything will be authentic from the Amacul Esinto songs to the various genres of tradi-

Soldier's wife now in battle to keep TA

A SOLDIER'S wife leading a campaign to save a threatened Territorial Army regiment, which has a base in Dudley, said it would be 'disrespectful' to generations of service personnel if it was axed.

The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry, which has existed more than 200 years, could be disbanded under plans being considered by defence ministers.

The TA regiment, which has a squadron base in Vicar Street, Dudley, could be split up to allow for the creation of a Scottish Yeomanry.

Dudley's A Squadron is the only remaining TA Royal Armoured Corps Squadron to be in the West Midlands.

Mother-of-three Hannah Bragg, whose husband Major Tom Bragg leads A Squadron, has taken up the fight to petition ministers in Whitehall.

More than 900 people have signed an online petition that Mrs Bragg, a 38-year-old housewife living in Buckinghamshire, set up against plans to axe the regiment. She wants to reach 100,000 which could trigger a House of Commons debate. Major Bragg, aged 36, works full-time as a registrar plastic surgeon at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

The petition can be found at petitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49480.

A memorial to workers

A NEW memorial will be built in Dudley honouring people who have lost their lives in the workplace as part of national commemoration.

Plans will be discussed for a site for the tribute after Dudley Council leader David Sparks signalled his approval.

The announcement comes after the town held a ceremony marking Workers' Memorial Day, led by the Dudley branch of the TUC last month. It could be positioned in Dudley's Corona



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Councillor to stand as independent

DUDLEY Councillor Karen Shakespeare, senior constituency case worker for Stourbridge MP Margot James, has stepped down from Dudley Conservatives in the wake of husband Lee Jones's resignation from the group he used to lead.

She, like her husband, will now stand as an Independent Conservative. Miss James was recently appointed by the Prime Minister to a new advisory board of Tory back-

benchers, including Jo Johnson, brother of London Mayor Boris, that will try to sharpen the Conservative party political operation for the general election.

Councillor Shakespeare said the Stourbridge MP understood her action and had been 'very supportive'.

Miss James said: 'I'm sorry of course - but it's a matter for Karen and it certainly won't influence her

work for me at all. She has my full confidence. I understand her reasons but won't comment on them.'

'There's no embarrassment over this - there would be if Karen had resigned from the Conservative party, but she hasn't.'

Councillor Shakespeare said the 'straw that broke the camel's back' to prompt her decision was current leader Councillor Patrick Harley's calls for Councillor Jones, now an

independent Tory, to resign his seat in Pedmore and Stourbridge East, so forcing a by-election.

Councillor Shakespeare, aged 55, who has represented Halesowen North on the council for 13 years, said: 'I have been a member of the party for almost 30 years and remain fully supportive of it. I am a loyal Conservative and there is nothing in my decision which will impact on my work with Margot

Addict is grabbed trying to steal fuel

A DRUG addict stole fuel from a petrol station three times in four days but was caught on his fourth attempt, a court heard.

Brett Hill had already stolen £178.69 of fuel from the Tesco petrol station in Hagley Road, Oldswinford, when he pulled up and began to fill his car and two Jerry cans on May 1.

But staff recognised his blue Vauxhall Astra and ran out to apprehend him before police arrived to arrest him.

At Dudley Magistrates Court, Hill, aged 37, of Caledonia, Quarry Bank, pleaded guilty to three charges of making off with petrol without payment.

He also admitted one charge of attempted theft and driving without insurance and a licence.

Mr Paul Selby, defending, said Hill had been addicted to heroin for 15 years but had managed to hold down a job in the motor industry until being made redundant last year.

He said: 'He needed petrol to look for a vehicle for a new business he was looking to set up. He wants to sort out his lifestyle and get off the drugs.'

Sentencing was adjourned until June 17 for reports.

Theatre campaigners refute £10m estimate

Campaigners have disputed figures claiming the council would have to pay up to £10m to help renovate and reopen the former Dudley Hippodrome.

Dudley Council bosses are ploughing ahead with plans to demolish it as Dudley Zoo announced proposals for a new educational and conference centre on the land.

Council leader Councillor David Sparks said the authority could not afford to help fund the reopening of the Castle Hill theatre 'in the current climate'.

It comes after an independent assessment of the campaigners' business plan claimed the authority would need to subsidise the reopening of the Hippodrome as well as making an upfront investment of between £5m and £10m. But campaign leader Geoff Fitzpatrick said the group had not demanded cash from the authority.

But other shoppers, including those with mobility problems, say business owners need to be prepared to compromise to improve the town's accessibility.

It comes as prices at council car parks in the borough will increase by 20 per cent.

Two additional disabled bays have been created in Market Street to make a total of four in the road near Stourbridge Town Hall.

Highways bosses say they have also experimented by adding a further six in Drury Lane, past St Thomas' Church.

But shoppers have already made complaints to business owners following the move.

Nigel Higham, who runs Crown Butchers, in Market Street, said: 'I can't see the sense in it.'

Stourbridge Township Council chairman Margaret Scott, who has mobility problems, said: 'I don't think having four disabled bays in Market Street is overkill.'

Talks

Friends of Dudley Hippodrome members intend to hold fresh talks with council officers on May 29.

Councillor Sparks said: 'As leader of the council, I am very well aware that there are many people that would like to see the former Hippodrome restored and reopened as a successful theatre.'

'However, what the independent study has told us is this would require an upfront capital investment of millions of pounds and that even then the building would require a significant subsidy from the council, which in the current climate, I think most people will appreciate is something we cannot commit to.'

But campaign leader Geoff Fitzpatrick dismissed the figures revealed, saying campaigners have been unable to get a fully costed estimate for the works, due to the uncertainty of the theatre's future.

Bus stunt youths risking lives



The group of teenagers hitch a dangerous lift clinging on to the back of a bus

MOTORISTS and passers-by were stopped in their tracks as a group of teenagers clung with death when they hitched a bus ride - clinging to the back on their skates.

Onlookers watched in horror as the 'foolish five' travelled along brazenly for more than half a mile in heavy traffic from Cradley Heath to Quarry Bank.

The National Express bus company, describing it as a 'very dangerous' act, revealed it has had to mount extra inspections in the Quarry Bank area, where similar incidents have been happening, to nip it in the bud.

Julia Chance, who took photographs, was even moaned amid the traffic when the 'hitchhikers', believed to be in their early teens, spotted her using her mobile phone camera.

She had seen the group hang on to a flap above the bus engine as it left Cradley Heath bus station and they carried on being pulled along as the vehicle travelled along Forge Lane to High Street, Quarry Bank.

'I couldn't believe what I was seeing, and neither could car drivers on the road,' said 42-year-old Miss Chance of Hill Street, Quarry Bank.

She added: 'If one of them had fallen off, they could have gone under the wheels of the bus or another vehicle. They really were the foolish five.' National Express West Midlands spokesman Jack Kelly said: 'This act is very dangerous and we urge those taking part to stop it immediately. Our drivers are reporting these incidents as soon as they are aware of them.'

Charity ball raises cash

THE parents of a child wheelchair-bound by a crippling spinal disease have raised thousands through a sold-out charity ball.

About 180 people attended the event at the David Lloyd Leisure Centre in Brierley Hill.

It was organised by Paula and Tony Flatman, whose three-year-old daughter Hollie suffers from spinal muscular atrophy - a muscle wasting condition which damages the spinal cord.

The couple, of Burns Close, Stourbridge, set up the event as a first fundraiser and pulled in £4,135.

Boy hurt by fall

A BOY was hurt when he fell 12ft from a tree at an event in Stourbridge. Paramedics were called to the Global Day of Prayer event at Mary Stevens Park at 4.30pm on Sunday. The boy suffered chest injuries and was taken to Dudley's RusSELL Hall Hospital.

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Owners of town bar in trouble

THE operator of a Stourbridge town centre bar has gone into administration.

Administrators from Deloitte were appointed last week at Atmosphere Bars and Clubs, which is based in Milton Keynes.

The firm runs 19 Chicago bars across the country including one in Ryemarke, Stourbridge for which a buyer is now being sought.

The Stourbridge bar only opened in September after Atmosphere spent £500,000 on refurbishing the former Que Pasa restaurant and bar.

It created 25 jobs and marked the return of the chain to the town after the former Chicago Rock Cafe in the High Street shut in 2010 when parent company 3DE collapsed and went into administration.

Daniel Butters, joint administrator and partner at Deloitte, said: "We are continuing to trade the business and all venues remain open whilst seeking a sale as a going concern."

JLR opens testing site

JAGUAR Land Rover has opened a new engineering test centre in Dubai.

The car maker will conduct extreme hot weather vehicle research, development and testing at the new site.

It is part of a major investment programme under way for the manufacturer including a £500 million engine manufacturing plant at the i54 site on the Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire border.

JLR director of engineering technical services Martin Hollingsworth said: "Our new facility in Dubai is four times the size of the previous test centre and will enable us to enhance our testing of future products and technologies.

"The engineering team is focused on the quality and durability of our products."

Museum tickets

SEASON tickets are to be issued at the Museum of Carpet in Kidderminster due to an increasing demand for return visits. Tours of the Stour Vale Mill building in Green Street, which houses the museum, are proving so popular staff have decided to offer season tickets which will last until the end of the year.

Paper prescriptions to be replaced digitally

HEALTH Secretary Jeremy Hunt has signalled the end of outdated paper prescriptions and notes with the announcement of a £260 million fund for hospitals to help the NHS 'go digital' within five years.

Mr Hunt said using the latest technology could make the NHS safer by cutting down on the number of prescription blunders. He recently revealed 11 people died in the NHS in England last year after being given the wrong medication and the new money will be used to help develop 'electronic prescribing'.

This will mean doctors can use technology to order prescriptions. It will also be

used to help hospitals develop new electronic patient systems so medics from different departments in a hospital can access patient information quickly and easily.

Eventually it will be rolled out to GP surgeries, marking an end to the written prescription.

The new system will see computer-generated prescriptions, using barcodes unique to each patient, being sent by doctors directly to pharmacies.

Mr Hunt said: "This fund will allow doctors and nurses to make the NHS safer by harnessing the very latest technology.

"In many places, right now, a paramedic picking up a frail elderly woman who has had a fall will not always know she has dementia, because he or she cannot access her notes. Or a doctor is prescribing the wrong drugs because they don't know what drugs their patient is already on.

"If we are to improve patient safety then we must allow the NHS to have access to the best tools available and this fund will help them achieve that."

Medical director of NHS England Professor Sir Bruce Keogh said: "This new fund will help patients get better and safer care by giving clinicians access to

the right information when they need it most."

"Supporting hospitals to replace outdated paper systems for notes and prescriptions will help relieve patients' frustration at having to repeat their medical and medication history over and over again, often in the same hospital, because their records aren't available."

"Expanding the use of electronic prescribing of medications in hospitals will help improve safety, save lives and save taxpayer's money."

Mr Hunt has previously set out ambitions to make the NHS 'paperless'.

NEWS

in brief

It's a family of mayors in town

THE new mayor of Dudley is following in his brother's footsteps as the borough's first citizen.

Councillor Alan Finch was elected the new mayor of Dudley at a civic ceremony in the town and among those watching was his oldest brother, and fellow councillor Ken Finch, mayor of Dudley in 1989/99.

The younger Finch, aged 60, said: "This is a very proud day for my family, as the second Councillor Finch to be Mayor of this borough."

Group invitation to young actors

YOUNG actors are invited to audition for a new production by a South Staffordshire drama group.

The Blue Branches Drama Academy in Brewood is inviting children between seven and 14 to audition for their forthcoming production of A Little Princess.

The classic novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett tells of how young Sara Crew is reduced from wealth to poverty.

Call 01902 851 682 or visit www.bluebranchesdramaacademy.co.uk

Drivers targeted in road crackdown

DRIVERS speeding, using their mobile phones at the wheel or failing to wear a seatbelt were pulled over by police as part of a day of action in Dudley.

Police joined with West Midlands Fire Service to carry out the initiative in the Castle and Priory areas of Dudley. Out of more than 50 motorists stopped, 16 were speeding, five were on their phones, and 24 were not wearing seat belts.

Doughnuts shop is helping charity

A SHOP is donating money to charity for every bag of doughnuts sold in a national campaign.

To mark National Doughnut Week, Green's Doughnuts at the Holly Bush Garden Centre, Shropshire is giving 10p to the Children's Trust for every bag sold. The scheme has raised more than £75,000 for charity.

£522 for the RNLI

THE Royal National Lifeboat Institution's annual flag day in Stourbridge centre raised £522. Stourbridge branch chairman Chris Fonteyn said, the generosity of shoppers was apparent.

Paul sheds light on silver screen with home cinema

IT'S a film buff's dream - a cinema at the bottom of the garden. That's just what Paul Slim has created, by kitting out his shed with a huge screen and surround sound.

The 36-year-old originally kitted out the living room of his Amblecote home with hi-tech equipment but had to find a new home for it when his girlfriend, Nic, moved in. The Carphone Warehouse worker quickly hit on the idea of turning his shed into the perfect venue for him and friends to enjoy films on the big screen.

by Lee Watson

The project took around three months and £15,000 to complete with Mr Slim, who used to run the Movie Junction store in Stourbridge, doing a lot of the work himself.

It's fitted with four sofas and a 119-inch screen, a 3D projector and 11.2 surround sound.

The shed also has a lobby where Mr Slim stores his huge collection of 3,000 DVDs and Blu-Rays.

Visitors can also put on slippers or get hold of a hot or cold drink from the foyer just as they would in a real cinema.

It is also kitted out with a selection of movie memorabilia which Mr Slim has collected over the years.

In one corner are large cut-outs of Boba Fett and C-3PO from the Star Wars franchise while shelves are packed with models from Pirates of the Caribbean, including Captain Jack Sparrow, Kill Bill and The

Simpsons. The collection also features figures from Shaun of the Dead and V for Vendetta.

Mr Slim's design for his shed has proved such a hit it is now in the running for a top prize in a nationwide competition to find Britain's best sheds.

The winner will be judged by Channel 4's Sarah Beeny and Kevin McCloud along with a host of enthusiasts.

Mr Slim said he had been a movie fan for years and had built up a collection of more than 3,000 titles.

"I designed the shed which was then built by an outside company who did all the woodwork and installed it," he said.

"I did everything else including all the installations, wiring and calibrating the sound and vision."

The shed can hold around 20 people comfortably.

Vote for Mr Slim's shed by logging on to website www.readersheds.co.uk



Paul Slim, from Stourbridge, sits back in his sofa to watch a film on his big screen in the cinema in his shed



Paul at the entrance to the cinema in the garden



Paul's massive collection of DVDs adorn the walls

Appeal over carnival

ORGANISERS of this year's Bewdley Carnival are appealing for anyone interested in joining the parade either as a walking group or on a float to get in touch.

They are hoping good weather will bring thousands of people into the town for the annual event which this year is on June 8 – and now want people keen to join in the fun to make contact. Anybody interested in joining the parade either can call 01299 401841. Organisers are also seeking people interested in running a stall.

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NEWS

**THE BEST
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RHODES**

THIS blog is coming to you, Wifi permitting, from the island of Inchmurrin on Loch Lomond. As every traveller knows, Scotland can be gloriously sunny in May. This is not one of those Mays. I am reminded of the traditional Scottish greeting to holidaymakers: "Och, but ye've just missed a beautiful fortnight."

THERE are three of us boating around the isles; myself, my younger brother and my old mate Lennox. We are not as young as once we were and we did the sum of all the medications we are taking to ward off the ailments of middle age. This is Three Men and Eighty-Four Tablets on a Boat. Some vessels announce their arrival with horns or whistles. Ours rattles.

ON OUR Highland island, the storm struck at precisely 4.28am, whamming into the side of our cottage like a giant boot and striking dumb a flock of cackling oystercatchers on the beach. The little black-and-white birds had been joyously celebrating the dawn and then thought better of it and dashed for cover. By breakfast, Loch Lomond was a frenzy of wild water, white horses erupting from shore to shore with vicious little squalls corkscrewing through the tiny harbour. Not the ideal sailing day.

I WAS reminded of the unkind old joke. What's that special word the Scots use to describe the conditions when it's perishing cold, the rain is lashing down and the wind blows you off your feet? Summer.

NO surprises about Olivia Colman winning two awards at the Baftas. I bet she'll be back in 2014 for her excellent performance in this year's murder mystery, Broadchurch. And here's another prediction. Watch out in 2014 for a best-supporting award for that old trouper Anton Lesser as the senior police officer in Endeavour. He doesn't just play the part; he becomes it, bringing all sorts of twitching prejudices and paranoia to it. What a pro.

DID you see the cops battering down the door of drug dealers in Liverpool this week as they broke up a multi-million pound drugs ring? It took forever. There was a time when the average front door parted company with its hinges after a couple of hefty whacks from the police battering ram. These days, steel-framed doors with five locking points, usually installed as part of a double-glazing package, can takes ages to smash open. Energy efficiency – the criminal's friend.

EVERY day seems to bring another Tory standing up to declare that, if a referendum were held tomorrow, he would vote to leave the EU. So you might get the impression that withdrawal is imminent. Dream on. All David Cameron is offering is a referendum four years from now, assuming he is re-elected, which is a fairly bold assumption. Meanwhile, the real action is taking place in the eurozone, now on track to become virtually a single nation, because the only way to make the euro work is to have one central bank and one budget. This brave talk of pulling out is just smoke and mirrors. Britain is threatening to jump off a train bound for Brussels when the train has already been diverted to Berlin.

A READER tells me he got a bargain at an auction. He snapped up a Victorian stuffed dog for just £20, probably because the tail was missing from this much-loved pet of the 1890s. He asked the auctioneer: "If this dog were in pristine condition, what would it have fetched?" And the auctioneer replied: "Sticks."

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My Boy Lollipop band member dies

A MUSICIAN from Dudley who played organ and harmonica on a smash hit of the 1960s My Boy Lollipop has died, aged 68.

Ray Deville, who lived in Stourbridge, was a member of The Five Embers, the backing band of teenage singing sensation Millie Small.

After the song reached number two in the UK Singles Chart and the US Billboard Hot 100 in 1964, the

band embarked on a series of gigs and package tours.

Father-of-three Mr Deville, of Clent View Road, Norton, shared the stage with such legends as The Kinks, The Rolling Stones, John Lee Hooker and The Hollies.

His proudest moment was playing the organ in the backing band of his hero Jerry Lee Lewis on a Granada Television special in 1964.

By the early-70s, he worked as a

rep for Cadburys in London and took the opportunity to move to the West Midlands where he settled in Stourbridge with his family. He also worked for Severn Trent Water.

His daughter Sarah Aston said Mr Deville, who was also a grandfather of six, had always adored playing music.

"He was always very modest about it. He considered himself a musician who had been doing a job,"

she said. Mr Deville, who remained well known on the local pub and club circuit, was born in Hounslow, and was in the same primary school class as Ian McLagan of The Small Faces.

He died at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital on May 9 after suffering a stroke.

His funeral was due to be held at Stourbridge Crematorium on Wednesday at 1.30pm.

**Over the limit man
'a danger to public'**

A CONVICTED drink-driver has been described as a danger to the public after he was again caught driving over the limit.

Simon Shaw was arrested after being stopped by officers driving on a Sedgley road last month.

The 24-year-old, who had been convicted of drink-driving 18 months earlier admitted driving while over the limit, at Dudley Magistrates Court.

Sentencing him District Judge Mr Graham Wilkinson said he was 'a danger to the public'.

He said Shaw, of Mason Street, Bilton, had been spotted by officers as he drove his Renault Clio down the middle of Bilton Street on April 17.

After a short pursuit they saw him stop outside a house on Greenway, the court was told.

He had gone inside where officers found him brushing his teeth to try and hide the evidence of his drinking.

A breath test found 59 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of Shaw's breath, almost twice the legal limit of 35.

Mr Wilkinson also banned Shaw for three years.

A HIGH Court date has been set for a firm at the centre of a row over a towering waste pile in Brierley Hill to answer claims of failing to meet strict targets on clearing the rubbish.

The Environment Agency will next month mount a fresh legal bid to enforce sanctions against Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd, also known as RDF.

The hearing will take place on June 17 at the High Court sitting in Birmingham.

The company was told at a hearing held last year that the front of the site should be cleared of rubbish by the end of March.

But officials from the Environment Agency are expected to argue the firm and its director Robert McNaughton have failed to remove the waste, which can be seen from the main gate of the Moor Street plant.

Demanded

Nieghbours, including in new homes built on the former Royal Brierley Crystal site, demanded a clear-up after the waste pile once reached 40ft high.

Mr McNaughton declined to comment, but his legal representatives have previously blamed bad weather for hampering the clean-up process.

In a statement the Envi-

ronment Agency's West Midlands manager David Hudson, said it would be presenting evidence to Birmingham High Court showing the rubbish had not been removed.

"At this hearing, we will ask the Court to punish the company and the director (Mr McNaughton) for failing to remove the section of waste visible from the main gate, as agreed on 10 December 2012," he said.

"We will also seek to prevent any further waste going onto the site. "We have asked for this prohibition of waste previously, but the High Court has not agreed to this action so far.

"Finally, we will ask the court to punish the company, Mr McNaughton and previous director, Sharon McCann, for breach of promises made to the court on June 18, 2012."

The Environment Agency has already spent more than £40,000 in legal costs.

Car production increases

UK car production has rebounded as home demand provided a much-needed boost for British-based auto manufacturers, new figures claim.

Car manufacturing rose 16.6 per cent in April, to 110,033 vehicles, following a slowdown in the early months of the year. Experts are now saying the UK car making sector could grow by a third by 2016. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said the renewed growth reflected demand in the home market – up 66.1 per cent in April – and outside Europe, but weak demand from the Continent remains a concern. SMMT interim chief executive Mike Bantaun said: "UK car production bounced back in April."

Co-operative to help disabled

Councillor Rachel Harris, Kate Cottam, with back, Tracey McClymont, Hope the dog, Bill Bloomer and Ken McClymont

A CO-OPERATIVE offering financial advice to people with disabilities is poised to be launched in Dudley following strong interest from potential users.

The Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living wants to establish the service after holding meetings about providing a platform where disabled people can support each other. It is believed it could be the first of its kind in the country.

The group, with help from consultancy firm Linda Laurie Associates, has held meetings at Stourbridge Fire Station with potential users, officers from Dudley Coun-

cil and the Department of Work and Pensions. Associates' senior partner Mike Higgins said: "We were extremely pleased with the response from people in the borough and from supporting bodies like the council."

Chairman of The Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living Ken McClymont said: "This is designed to help disabled people across the borough who may be facing difficulties dealing with the finance side of things."

"We believe that by joining up and working together people will be in a better position in their dealings."

MP calls for your views

AN MP has called on patients to come forward with their experiences of treatment at Dudley's Russells Hall hospital which is being investigated over high death rates.

NHS medical director Professor Sir Bruce Keogh is leading the review of 14 hospital trusts across the country in the wake of the Stafford Hospital scandal.

Russells Hall Hospital is among those facing the probe after higher-than-expected mortality rates. Visit www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/bruce-keogh-review for details.

Sales increased

BREWERS Marston's announced an increase in sales – despite revealing profits had been knocked by bad weather during January and March. Despite this the Wolverhampton beer and pubs group, which brews Banks's and Pedigree, has plans for more new pub restaurants.

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Zoo's boss among the top chiefs

THE chief executive of Dudley Zoo is among the winners in the West Midlands Director of the Year Awards.

Peter Suddock, aged 66, won in the not-for-profit category of the annual Institute of Directors' awards, which were announced at Warwickshire Cricket Club's Edgbaston ground.

Paul Hutchens, managing director of Kidderminster-based Eco2Solar, won an environment-based award.

The overall director of the year was Chris Li, chief executive and founder of Coventry business Luxury for Less.

The winners of each category will go forward to represent the West Midlands region at the IoD's national competition to be held in London on October 11.

Mr Suddock has been the zoo's chief executive for 20 years and has described it as 'the best job in the world.'

The judges recognised him as an outstanding leader with a real passion for his business.

The attraction receives 225,000 visitors each year.

Science link to libraries

MAD scientists would approve of activities about to explode in libraries around the Dudley borough.

Borough libraries will be offering activities to celebrate National Family Week, from May 27 to June 2.

Events range from Bookstart Bear visits for under-fives to mad science and fantasy workshops.

On May 30, there will be two special Mad Science Fire and Ice shows, at Dudley and Halesowen Libraries.

They will bring to life science in an entertaining and dramatic fashion, as well as being educational, for over fives.

The show will be at Halesowen Library from 11am to noon and at Dudley Library from 2 to 3pm. Admission is free but places must be booked.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, said: "Our libraries do an excellent job at supporting families."

Singers in show

THE Starlight Singers will be performing songs from the shows at Kidderminster's Rose Theatre on May 31 featuring hits from Miss Saigon, Les Misérables and Wicked. Tickets, are £10, and available on 01562 743745 or via www.rosetheatre.co.uk

Fury at waste firm for no-show at meeting

RESIDENTS in Brierley Hill packed a public meeting to voice their fears over a proposed waste recycling plant – and were left angry when no-one from the firm behind the scheme turned up to answer their questions.

About 200 people raised concerns about increased road traffic and a lack of community engagement at the heated meeting at Brockmoor School last week.

They also raised fears the plant would devalue their homes and could develop Clean Power, to offer compensation if the scheme got the go-ahead. But bosses at

the firm refused invites to attend after already holding two public consultations on the proposal.

No-one from the company was available to comment.

Councillor Judy Foster, whose ward covers Pensnett and Brockmoor, said: "You may ask where Clean Power are. We have asked them to the meeting.

"They did not like the idea of the format. They said a public meeting of this sort would not be productive, they prefer it on a one-on-one basis with people.

"We can't compel them to come here, all we can do is take what people say and send it to Clean Power and the planning committee." The meeting was chaired by former Dudley councillor Rosemary Tomkinson. She was supported by Councillor Foster and Councillor Rachel Harris, whose ward is Brierley Hill.

Councillor Harris told the meeting the firm had amended the planning application for the plant earmarked for 60 acres of disused land in Moor Street.

She said the height of the digestion tanks had been brought down to reduce the visual impact on the surrounding area.

Tim Lee, of Seagers Lane, said: "The best shout we have got to stop this happening is to show the adverse impact it will have on the neighbourhood surrounding it. "The planning department have to take into account we already have one waste site in Brierley Hill, now we have another one planned for right by it – this place is not a dumping ground."

He added: "If this goes ahead, all of a sudden we will find 70 more lorries on the road. This will not only cause damage to the roads, but cause danger for walkers and cyclists on them."

Gran thought her number was up until Ben stepped in

AS it was 'eyes down look in', literally did grandmother Shirley Gardener know that the young bingo hall assistant she had only ever waved at before was about to save her life.

Ben Washington raced to give the kiss of life to the 66-year-old when she suffered a heart attack on a Ring and Ride bus as she left the Mecca bingo hall in High Street, Brierley Hill. The first aider – who had never before used his life-saving training 'for real' – clambered over the bus seats to reach her, breathe life into her and start compressions.

Doctors said his actions bought her the vital five minutes of treatment that saved her life. "He's Ben, my guardian angel," said Shirley, a retired cleaner, of Beecher Road East, Halesowen, who has now met the amusement arcade team leader to thank him and give him a grateful kiss.

The story of how Ben saved her life brought tears to the eyes of around 400 fellow bingo players when her husband, Richard, stepped up in front of them, flanked by Shirley, their four children and some of their grandchildren, to praise Ben's actions.

Tipple

The family presented the 33-year-old with three bottles of his favourite tipple – Jaegermeister.

Shirley, who has been a regular at the Mecca for around 15 years, was happy with a £55 win at bingo with her daughter Kerry, aged 42, on the night of April 29, when she began to feel breathless as they were leaving.

She got on the bus with Kerry, of Highfield Crescent, Colley Gate, but then collapsed between the seats.

Ben, who trained in first aid with St John Ambulance six years ago, raced to the rescue.

Shirley said: "When I opened my eyes I just saw this big face coming at me and I heard Ben say 'Shirley, come on' and I don't remember anything else."

Ben, who lives with his wife, Denise, and six-year-old son Cain in Newwood Road, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, said: "Shirley was on the floor of the bus, so I climbed over a few seats to get to her and tried to get her comfortable because I thought at first it was asthma.

"But she said 'I'm going, I'm gone' and stopped breathing. That was the scariest bit, so I put her on her back and did CPR, including the kiss of life."

As Shirley began to regain consciousness, two other bingo customers – a hospital worker and a paramedic – came to help him, followed by an ambulance crew.

Shirley was rushed to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, where a medical team spent a further 45 minutes resuscitating her.

The doctor came out and said another five minutes and she wouldn't have made it,

said husband Richard, aged 42, a retired packing case maker. "Ben giving her CPR



Shirley Gardener, with her husband Richard and 'guardian angel', Ben Washington, who saved her life outside the Mecca bingo hall

gave her that five minutes." Richard added that emergency staff, as well as those on the critical care and cardiac units at Russells Hall Hospital, had all been 'brilliant' too.

Proud

Donna Brownhill, operations manager at the bingo hall, said: "Ben is very modest but the club, the company and all our customers are very proud of him."

"His quick-thinking saved Shirley's life."

West Midlands Ambulance Service were called to the scene outside the bingo hall at 9.40pm and they arrived a minute later.

They treated the patient at the scene before taking her to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley where she received further treatment.

Steve Parry, spokesman for the ambulance service, said: "When a patient suffers a medical condition every minute counts and the sooner a member of the public come to the aid of that patient the better chances that patient has of making a full recovery."

"The help of bystanders is also helpful to the ambulance service when such situations occur."

NEWS

in brief

Burn calories at fitness sessions

TV RUGBY pundit Austin Healey has backed a new campaign from British Military Fitness (BMF), which will include sessions in Stourbridge.

The organisation, which runs military-style outdoor fitness classes at Stevens Park, Wollescote, aims to inspire people to get into the open air and burn off calories at Start events. Stourbridge Start sessions will take place in the park on June 1, June 20 and July 20, all starting at 9.30am. Former England and Lions player Healey said: "I want us to inspire people to swap their slippers for trainers."

Have splashing time on course

CHILDREN from the age of four upwards will be able to have a splashing time in a swimming course in Stourbridge.

Dudley Council is launching three courses, each of four 30-minute sessions, at the town's Crystal Leisure Centre, from May 28 to 31. Beginner courses will run at 9.30am and 10.30am, with improvers at 10am. Each course costs £18.80 per child, with a 50 per cent off for Options Plus cardholders.

RBS is shedding 1,400 in two years

ROYAL Bank of Scotland is to cut 1,400 jobs over the next two years with nearly 200 of them in the West Midlands.

The Edinburgh-based bank said the positions would be axed over the next two years as part of plans to restructure its retail head office functions in the UK.

It said 'customer-facing' staff would not be affected in the cuts.

Parking scheme to be reviewed

A NEW parking scheme in Brierley Hill town centre will be reviewed.

Four bays for hour-long unloading and parking were introduced along the High Street in February.

The £100,000 trial scheme aimed to cut.

Councillor Judy Foster, said: "The order will be reviewed after six months to establish its success."

Dixons' sales up

CURRYS and PC World owner Dixons said the company was in the best shape it had been 'in many years' after reporting 'sales growth in the last 12 months'. Sales across the group rose by four per cent.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

THE most interesting thing to come out of the Chris Huhne case was the nature of the institution in which he was held.

According to one of the television news reporters, it is up to prisoners whether they want to lock the doors at Leyhill Prison in Gloucestershire at night. Presumably this is to keep the riff-raff out. After all, you wouldn't want any wrong 'uns spoiling the party, would you?

The newsman also said the prison was very proud of its workshop, which knocked out an excellent line in window frames.

So this is a prison where the inmates are free to come and go as they please, and where they spend their days making window frames.

And suddenly it struck me. There are plenty of institutions like this all over the West Midlands, only the inmates are in the main, honest law-abiding people who would never dream of perverting the course of justice, or scarring the countryside with wind turbines or anything like that.

Only round here, we call them factories.

□□□□□

IN WHAT must surely be one of the most imaginative claims under the Human Rights Act yet, Iraqi drug dealer Hesham Mohammed Ali, claimed he should be allowed to remain in the UK because he had tattoos.

Ali, who arrived via a people-smuggling racket 13 years ago, had his application for asylum turned down and was handed a four-year sentence for dealing class A drugs, had a half-naked woman tattooed on his chest. As you do.

"In Iraq, people with tattoos get stoned," he told the court.

Trust me, they do in Wolverhampton as well.

□□□□□

MEMO to the gentleman in front of me at Wolverhampton post office. Having your mobile phone on speaker in a public place is seldom a good idea, particularly when you are going through the security questions with your bank.

And given that everybody in the post office heard your name, address, postcode, date of birth and your mother's maiden name, it might not be a bad idea to update your security settings.

□□□□□

HERE'S a business idea you never see on The Apprentice.

Self-styled 'baconrepreneurs' Justin and Dave have recently launched their new line in bacon-scented sun cream.

"Science has shown us that 10 out of 10 people prefer the smell of bacon to coconut, which makes this the most anticipated new product of the summer," says a press release for J&D's Bacon Sunscreen.

What a load of codswallop. Who'd want to smell like fried bacon? Now pork scratchings and you might be on to something...



Some of the delegates raising their concerns



Roger Davies from Yorkshire who played at the event



Jez Lowe headlined the showcase concert at Folk21

Folk for the future is what drives John

Folk clubs and small venues feel under threat. **DANNY FARRAGHER** spoke to the musician leading the fightback

THEY say an avalanche can start from just a single noise and while it may not be quite that dramatic, a rumble was started on Facebook by musician John Richards almost two years ago which turned into a national movement.

As part of this movement people from all over the Midlands gathered in Wolverhampton determined to find solutions that are crucial to their survival.

John, aged 62, originally from Coseley and now living in Worfield, Bridgnorth, has been on the folk circuit for more than 40 years and is passionate about the tradition and even more so about the local clubs where new acts cut their teeth and which he feels are being ignored both by the folk circuit generally and the national and local media specifically.

Musicians

Folk21 saw its first West Midlands Regional Conference descend on the Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, Whitmore Reans where promoters, club organisers, musicians and folk fans came together.

The all-day conference was split into two parts with the delegates and visitors having their say in two seminar-style gatherings and then the evening putting on a showcase for new acts from around the country.

So where does the problem lie?

"The basic of Folk21 was that I was getting more and more depressed over a period of time as to the way the folk clubs were getting treated as compared to the festivals, the folk awards, the bigger concerts,

radio and TV and I thought we were given very much the wrong end of the stick and that something needed to be done about it," explained John.

I blogged this and a lot of like-minded



Musician John Richards who is leading the fight for survival for local folk clubs

people came forward and we decided something needed to be done, but what could we do?

"What we decided was to become a catalyst for co-operation. The whole basis of the regional days was just that, so that we can co-operate and see how we can start to solve the problems that the clubs and venues are facing."

Since Folk21 was started it has organised regional days all over the country; in Yorkshire, East Midlands, East Anglia, London and there is soon to be a Devon and South West meeting.

The perception of local folk clubs is very

much at the forefront of what John and many others see as a major part of the problem.

John believes the local folk club scene has been dropped by the media because it is seen as a minority interest.

"The publicity which was so important

has gone, so we are being battered on a local level," says John. "Even worse is

that on a national level we are just criticised and laughed at. For example, BBC2 Folk Awards dropped the Best Folk Club of the Year, they don't talk about us any more. We have been referred to as the old 'beards and sandals' brigade which has

nothing to do with modern folk."

"Now that is stopping younger people from getting involved in what we do, and my passion for this after playing and running folk clubs for 40 years is I want there to be continuity so the 'missing' 30-somethings and younger have a 'database' of folk clubs which they can carry forward for the future, because the way things are going they won't have, and that would be a tragic waste."

People came from many parts of the Midlands, South Staffordshire, Nottingham, Leicester, Bromsgrove, Willenhall and Wolverhampton to name but a few, and all seemed to have a common aim of making folk clubs the best experience they can be. Common concerns which emerged were the average age of the people at folk venues and the lack of publicity and communication between organisers up and down the country.

Problems

But John has no illusions about the enormity of the task.

"The main aim of the day was to get West Midlands folk club organisers together for the first time and to get them to share their problems.

"We also wanted to explore how the clubs and small venues could use publicity, PR, websites and social networking more successfully. I think we have raised a lot of issues which people are thinking and talking about and I think they will continue to talk about.

"I hope now through social networking there will be a lot of ideas posted, a sharing of ideas. Then getting everyone to start thinking about how we reach the 'non-folk' audience.

"That is absolutely key, it's what we do about raising the profile of the clubs and letting people know they can see brilliant musicians in intimate surroundings.

"My message to every folk club is to explore every possibility you can to be as professional as you can, in your publicity and marketing and make sure when you get the people into your folk club that you give them the best experience possible."

For information visit www.folk21.net

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A WOLVERHAMPTON councillor made history when he attended the 50th anniversary of the opening of a library. Councillor Ted Lane was also present at the official opening of the Heath Town Library in 1933.

SOCIAL Democrat David Owen was forced to abandon a pre-election walkabout after being banned from Wolverhampton's Mander Centre. A spokesman for Mander Properties said the centre was determined to remain non-political.

A WALSALL man who saved the life of a woman drowning in a canal admitted he knew nothing about lifesaving. Robert Dyhouse said: "I just muddled through," after rescuing Gladys Lewis from the canal and performing makeshift artificial respiration.

1993...

ORGANISERS of Dudley's Beer Festival had a race against time to get 150 barrels of ale set up for the start of the three-day event. Volunteers worked into the early hours after a last-minute hitch delayed delivery of scaffolding for storing the casks.

WOLVERHAMPTON'S top stores quit the town's Chamber of Commerce and set up their own pressure group, Marks & Spencer, Beatties, Boots, BHS and C&A were among the big names to walk out in protest at soaring membership charges.

A BANANA war broke out in Wolverhampton after Gateway's supermarket set the cost of the fruit by half. Market traders said they could not compete with the store's price of 25p a pound, which was less than the wholesale cost of bananas.

2003...

WOLVES sealed their promotion to the Premiership with an emphatic victory over Sheffield United in the play-off final in Cardiff. Goals from Mark Kennedy, Nathan Blake and Kenny Miller secured the 3-0 win.

HUNDREDS of young fans queued up for hours to meet chart-toppers Girls Aloud at Dudley's Merry Hill Centre. The band stopped off at the centre's new HMV store to sign copies of their album Sounds of the Underground.

A Midlands town hall was alive with the Sound of Music as 300 film enthusiasts attended the first ever Stourbridge Film Festival. Visitors from across the Black Country came dressed as nuns, Germans and members of the von Trapp family for the opening event entitled Sing-along-a-Sound-of-Music.

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LETTERS

Learn from the Grand campaign

PERHAPS Dudley's decision to demolish the Hippodrome reflects the cumbersome and unworkable unit the borough became after the latest gerrymandering of its boundaries.

Perhaps those absorbed against their will are delivering revenge by destroying the town itself. Clearly Dudley residents are significantly outnumbered.

One saving grace, for Wolverhampton's council, is it has twice enabled the rescue of the Grand Theatre, the jewel in the crown of the City's cultural life.

Dudley's Hippodrome deserves the same. Its supporters might learn from

what helped persuade Wolverhampton's council in the 1960s. We collected money and raised enough to convince it and the theatre's bank there was sufficient support. In only 24 hours we raised £1,800, when the average wage was around £1,000 per annum.

Here is a chance for Dudley to step out from the shadow of its neighbour Brum and perhaps an opportunity for collaboration between two real theatres between them bringing the best shows to the South Staffordshire conurbation.

Everyone in the area should support efforts to save the Hippodrome. I have

to confess I only once attended Dudley Hippodrome to see a pantomime. Dudley recall was a bleak and windswept place apart from the street housing the Hippodrome, Cinemas and the zoo, which resembled a holiday resort.

In the same issue as you report the decision you report plans to waste millions on extending the Metro to Merry Hill. I urge people from all Dudley's neighbours to support attempts to save that theatre. Write to your MPs folks.

P.J.W. HOLLAND
First hon. Secretary of
The Grand Theatre Club

Let's make punishment match the criminal act

LET'S make the punishment fit the crime.

Instead of listing the hundreds of cases every week where I am shocked at the leniency of decisions made, may re: the Huhe/Price case.

We were told perverting the course of justice is an extremely serious thing.

All kinds of dire outcomes were prophesied for the husband and wife law breakers.

In the event, instead of years in the 'clink', they were sentenced to eight months. Then lo and behold, because they were 'model inmates', they are released after eight weeks.

Can anyone explain to me what constitutes a serious crime and why in this case were the pair given a tap on the wrists? Yes, I know the family unit may be destroyed, but that happens in most serious cases.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE
Catholic Lane
Sedgley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

How many more are entering illegally?

THE local heating engineer who brought the attention of the police to a lorry containing 12 illegal immigrants, who were detained at Watford Gap Services, makes you wonder just how many lorries entering Britain carrying human cargo go undetected despite increased security, or so we are told, on both sides of the channel.

One would hope that in this particular case the 10 adults plus 2 juveniles from Iran, Syria and Afghanistan would be removed from Britain in weeks, if not days, but of course it won't happen. After going through official procedures it's just as likely they will be on our streets to join the queue behind hundreds of thousands living here in the same situation.

Immigration into Britain in whatever form has almost been a taboo subject since the infamous Enoch Powell speech. Since then governments of all shades have suppressed open debate on the subject for fears of being branded racist.

Consequently overwhelming public concern and the surge towards UKIP has now forced the Government to sit up and take notice, although I fear this move has come about 30 years too late.

A P CUFF, Grayling Road, Stourbridge

Political promises so easily reneged

DAVID Cameron on a visit to the USA has said only the Conservatives wanted to give people a say on a referendum.

We had his cast iron promise on this but we know cast iron is easily broken as are his promises.

America is not a member but they trade with anybody and any country anywhere in the world.

The American people would not take kindly to paying \$53 billion a day and be told what to do, how to do it and when by Brussels or anyone else, so why are we? Conservative MPs warn that voters do not trust politicians' promises on the EU, with good reason I would say.

UKIP leader, Nigel Farage is trying to get England to be governed, and our laws and wishes adhered to once more.

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NEWS

Mother leaves her heart in notes to her daughter

SHE had travelled the world, helped clear up after a tsunami and lit up rooms everywhere she went.

But writing letters for her daughter's birthdays that she would never live to see would surely be the toughest thing 31-year-old Helen John ever did. The 'inspirational and adventurous' young mother died of cancer just months after giving birth to baby Ella.

Knowing she had just weeks to live, Helen bravely penned poignant cards for her daughter Ella's first, 18th and 21st birthdays.

She also left four-month-old Ella a letter to read when she is older and even organised her own funeral to take the pressure off her grieving family.

The Stourbridge mother was diagnosed with liver cancer in January following the birth of her daughter and lost her battle against the illness just three months later.

Adventurous

She was unable to have chemotherapy because her body was not strong enough. Her husband Dean paid tribute to his wife's adventurous spirit and ability to put people at their ease even if they had only just met her.

Mr John, a 28-year-old self-employed electrician, said his wife had written out cards for her daughter's landmark birthdays.

They also held Ella's christening at St Mary's Church on Mother's Day this year.

Mr John said: "That was the kind of person she was. She never complained once. Once Helen had something in her mind she would just go and do it.

"Rather than be upset about what was happening she wanted to use the time positively by spending as much time as she could with me and Ella."

Mr John said he and his wife had first met at a private Christmas party



Helen studied for her PhD at the University of Birmingham



Helen John died of cancer three months after her daughter was born

seven years ago and had got chatting.

"One of her friends asked me if I would look after her while she went on the dancefloor. I turned around and there was Helen," he said.

"One of things which attracted me to her most was how adventurous she was. She had visited places like Australia and Guatemala while taking time out after university.

Tsunami

"Following the tsunami a few years ago she had travelled to Thailand to help with the clean up."

Mr John said his wife had inspired him to join in her adventures and they had visited Thailand, India and Croatia. The couple had married at St Mary's Church on October 2 2010.

They both shared a passion for dancing and even took part in competitions in places such as Blackpool.

Mr John said: "Although we were

only together for seven years I feel we did more together than some other couples do in a lifetime. She will be missed by everyone. She had a lovely smile which lit up any room she walked into. She was also very talkative."

Helen, who died on April 22, attended Tividale Comprehensive and King Edward VI School, Stourbridge, then studying at Edinburgh University.

After completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Edinburgh, Helen moved to the University of Birmingham to undertake a Masters in Public Health. Following the completion of her Masters, she undertook a PhD. In early 2011 she was appointed to the post of Senior Research Facilitator in the School of Health and Population Sciences at the University of Birmingham.

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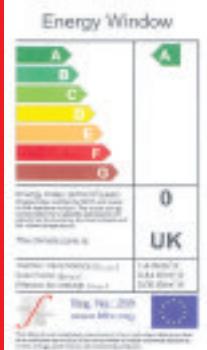
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Karla ready for drop



Karla Churchill at her home in Ironbridge Walk, Pedmore, Stourbridge is to do a parachute jump for Help for Heroes

BRAVE Karla Churchill will conquer her fear of heights in a big way for a parachute challenge – inspired by her soldier sister and ex-serviceman father.

The 21-year-old health care assistant from Stourbridge will be plunging 13,000ft to raise at least £500 for the Help for Heroes charity, which supports wounded servicemen and women. Her 19-year-old sister, Ebony, joined the army's 16 Air Assault Brigade three years ago and is based in Colchester.

Her father, Julian, as a former member of the Third Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, was in Northern Ireland during the troubles. "My sister and I are really close and one day she or one of her friends could need the support of Help for Heroes," said Karla who lives in Pedmore.

"My dad saw three of his close friends blown up and killed by roadside bombings in Northern Ireland. So, although it's out of my comfort zone because I don't like heights, I decided to do a parachute jump."

Karla works at Newbridge House eating disorders clinic in Sutton Coldfield. The parachute jump is due to take place in Nottingham on August 24, which is Karla's birthday. Donations can be made at bmcharity.co.uk/karlasjump forourheroes or email karla-deechurchill@hotmail.com.

Boss went on a crime spree after being jilted

A LOVESICK £700-a-week construction site manager has been jailed after going on a three-week crime spree when he was jilted.

Alexander McEvoy stole jewellery from a pawnbrokers, took a £33,000 Mercedes from a car dealership and then lead police on a 70 mph chase at the wheel of a stolen Audi A4, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 26-year-old walked out of a pawnbroker shop in Queen Street, Wolverhampton on March 4 wearing a bracelet he had not paid for, said prosecutor Mr Zaheer Afzal.

On March 9, McEvoy drove off in a Mercedes C Class coupe from a dealership in St John's Road, Stourbridge. He stole £49 of fuel next day from a petrol station in Halesowen Road, Netherton.

Next McEvoy took an Audi A4 and was spotted at the Stewponey junction in Stourton on March 20, continued Mr Afzal.

The defendant sped off from police and led them on a five mile high-speed pursuit along the Kidder-

minster Road towards Wolverhampton before stopping at Stallings Lane, Kingswinford.

McEvoy denied claims the Audi had reached 100 mph while being chased by the police.

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, explained: "He is a man who has difficulty dealing with emotion and stress in his life and lost all hope for the future when his relationship deteriorated and broke down."

McEvoy from Grange Road, Dudley, who had previous convictions, pleaded guilty to theft, bilking, which is taking fuel without paying for it, and aggravated vehicle taking.

He was sent to prison for two years and four months and was also banned from driving for three years.

NEWS



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NEWS

Driver, 22, is charged over death

A MAN has been charged with causing the death by careless driving of a mother-of-two in a car crash.

Samantha Jennings, aged 26, from Kingswinford, died in the accident on the A449 at Cookley, near Kidderminster, early on December 8.

She was a passenger in a Vauxhall Astra which hit a tree near the Island Pool pub. The driver was taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital with serious injuries.

A 22-year-old man from Stourbridge has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving and possessing cannabis.

He will appear before magistrates on May 30.

Transformation to bring new life for Kingfisher

IT'S hosted the cream of musical and comedy talent during its long history and now an iconic country club in Dudley is to get a new lease of life.

From The Supremes and The Drifters to Gerry and Pacemakers and Joe Longthorne – they have all performed at the Kingfisher Country Club, Wall Heath.

Comics such as Bernard Manning and Frank Carson have performed on its stage.

Now the club's new owners Inndividual Holdings is to start work on transforming the club – recognisable for its thatched roof – to bring back

high-profile names in entertainment. A refurbishment of the bar will get under way this month before work starts on the lounge and then the club function room next year.

The company, which will create around 50 jobs, will also extend the club's opening hours, from two days to seven days.

Director David Facer said: "Wall Heath and Kingswinford have been lacking a premium venue for many years and we plan to transform the Kingfisher back into a great country club, restaurant and premium venue."

Mr Facer is one of the three directors of the company alongside Marina Parry and Paul Mildenstein.

Mrs Parry, who visited the Kingfisher Country Club 30 years ago, said:

"I remember having some great nights out in the Piranhas wine bar in the late 80s." Mr Mildenstein added: "Even though the detail of this plan has been in progress for over six months we all as directors know that the real hard work begins now and we will be looking to our trading partners to form a strong alliance to ensure that we give the customers locally what they really want."

The club had been previously owned by the Williams family, but after a member's ill health the family was unable to go through with refurbishment and was forced to sell it.

Inndividual Holdings runs a chain of local pubs, including The Wall Heath Tavern and The Lench Bridge in Pensnett.

Plane crashed due to fogged up windscreen

A PLANE crashed into a helicopter because the pilot had failed to clear his windscreens properly, a report from an accident investigation agency has revealed.

The pilot of the plane, a flying instructor, was trying to navigate between a fuel tanker and a fire service vehicle at Halfpenny Green Airport near Stourbridge and failed to spot the helicopter parked at a fuel bay.

The impact destroyed the plane's propeller and caused damage to its clutch and gearbox.

The tail and tail rotor system of the parked helicopter were also damaged in the collision.

A report by the Air Accident Investigation Bureau said the instructor had been supervising a student when the crash took place at about 9.50am on December 12 last year.

It said: "After completing the daily

inspection, the instructor briefed his student for the exercise and then the pair boarded the aircraft.

"With the engine running, air was directed to the windscreens but it was slow to demist, so the instructor cleared the inside of the screen with the back of his glove."

The accident report went on to state: "He also reached through the direct vision window and cleared moisture from the outside of the screen immediately in front of him."

The report said initially the student was controlling the plane, a DA Diamond Star, but the 59-year-old instructor took over because the low sun meant the student was unable to see.

It said: "The instructor failed to see the helicopter parked at the fuel pumps and the aircraft taxied into its tail at low speed."

Park seals award win at ceremony



The latest Award for West Midland Safari Park. Sue Day, the park's visitor services manager, shares the success with six-year old Californian sealion, Callum

STAFF at West Midland Safari Park, known for its drive-through attraction, are celebrating after becoming kings of the road after winning a national tourism award.

The park in Bewdley has been awarded the title of the Most Coach Friendly Visitor Attraction of the Year at a national tourism awards ceremony.

The safari park gained the top award in the competition at which was staged at the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.

The Coach Tourism Awards are organised by trade magazine, Coach Monthly.

Sue Day, the park's visitor services manager, said: "We have always appreciated the great level of support that we get from the coach industry and the group business it brings."

Dancers train for zumbathon event

ZUMBA enthusiasts are going through their paces in training for a mammoth session to raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The three-hour zumbathon, run by instructor Suzanne Richardson and her team, will be held at The Kingswinford School, Water Street, Kingswinford, on June 15.

Those taking part will dress with a beach party theme and people of all ages and abilities are invited to take part.

Instructor Suzanne said: "It may seem strange that we have chosen to support the lifeboat service, but so many people locally will be visiting the coast this year and the RNLI's beach lifeguards will once again be visible on the sands during the coming months helping to keep the beaches safer."

The zumbathon will be supporting in particular the courageous volunteer crew of the lifeboat 'The Frank and Lena Clifford of Stourbridge', stationed at New Quay on the Welsh coast, and the lifeguards who will be operating there this year."

The event will run from midday until 3.00pm with children, who must be supervised, taking part during the first hour.

Advance bookings and sponsorship forms are available at www.zumbawithsuzanne.co.uk or people can phone Suzanne on the number 07540 822941 or Sarah Tilley on 07894 863264.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices, believes that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over nearly two decades.

Sited on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today. He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and

installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for" advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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New manager is taking over at city theatre venue

THE new manager of a Black Country theatre has been announced.

Neil Reading has taken over the post from Kevin O'Sullivan who retired last month after 27 years at the Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, which is part of the University of Wolverhampton.

The 30-year-old from Gnosall, Staffordshire has spent the past year working as the promoter at the theatre's sister venue, The Performance Hub, on the Walsall campus.

In his new role, as well as overseeing the programming and management of the theatre, Mr Reading will continue to be involved in the development of the Performance Hub.

Before starting work at the hub he worked as the student activities co-ordinator at the university for five years, increasing the numbers of students joining societies and volunteering.

He has also worked for other venues, including The Moat House Hotel Stafford and Rugeley Rose Theatre, and has toured to Battersea Arts Centre, Gatehouse Theatre Stafford and Bedlam Theatre in Edinburgh. He has a performance background, gaining a BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies at University of Hull and an MA in Directing for Theatre at St Mary's College in Twickenham.

Mr Reading founded the Violet Microwave Theatre company in 2000 and has directed all of their shows to date. He was also a founder member of Juice Comedy in Stafford.

Fresh fears on steel jobs

FRESH fears over the future of UK steel jobs were raised today after India's Tata Steel wiped £1 billion from the value of its European operations.

The group, which has UK operations at sites, including Wednesfield, Brierley Hill and Bescot in Walsall, blamed the tough economy in Europe where steel demand has slumped by about a third since the start of the financial crisis.

Unions said the huge writedown will worry its 18,500 staff in the UK who are still reeling from 900 job cuts last year.

In November Tata announced that

sites would close in Cradley, Kingswinford, Wombourne and Dudley, although there would be fresh investment in the Wednesfield Steelpark site.

Around 120 jobs will be lost in the West Midlands when the closures are completed.

Tata, which bought Anglo-Dutch steel giant Corus in 2007 for £6.2bn, has endured a tough time during the downturn as demand from construction and car-making fell, forcing thousands of lay-offs and plant closures.

It employs more than half its 33,000-strong European workforce in the UK.

Tata warned tough conditions are

likely to persist for the 'near and medium-term'.

In February its European business reported a £51 million underlying loss for the three months to the end of 2012, with steel deliveries falling to almost 10 per cent to 3.02 million tonnes.

Paul Talbot, from the Community trade union, said: "These statements are concerning; there's no question about it. They are concerning to the employees who at this moment are still working their way through the last announcement."

The £1.05bn writedown of Tata's assets and goodwill is thought to be one of the largest ever by an Indian company.

Demand for homes up

DEMAND for homes is on the rise in the West Midlands, thanks to the Government's new Help to Buy scheme, claims a new report.

A survey of chartered surveyors carried in April found inquiries from new buyers were at their highest level since last October. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors study found 20 per cent more surveyors were reporting demand for property rising rather than falling. That is three per cent higher than the month before and is seen as strongly suggesting that Help to Buy is already attracting interest.

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NEWS

Dangerous road fears delays homes decision

PLANS for new homes to be built near a historic windmill have been deferred amid fears it will make one of Dudley's most dangerous roads even more treacherous.

Cameron Homes Ltd wants permission to build 14 properties on land adjacent to the Old Windmill in Vale Street, Upper Gornal.

But while Dudley Council's development control committee praised the plans they were concerned it would lead to increased traffic along the street.

Members said the road was one of the narrowest in the borough with a bend along part of the carriageway already the scene of a number of accidents.

And they said while the development would be a boost to Upper Gornal they could not approve the scheme when it could have a detrimental impact on the road.

They agreed to defer making a decision on the scheme so highways officials could look at the situation. Access to the development would be via Moden Close, but the committee said cars would still have to use Vale Street.

Councillor Stuart Turner said: "This is a real problem. If there is a more dangerous road in the Dudley borough I would like to see it."

"The housing development itself is a great idea and I have no problems with it. However we simply cannot just wave something like this through without considering Vale Street. Councillor Rachel Harris said there was no available funding for improvements to the roadway and it would be unfair to ask developers to do something about it."

Co-op enjoys record sales

THE region's biggest Co-op has unveiled record sales of £943 million for the last year, with a major boost from its fledgling energy business. Midcounties Co-op saw its overall sales rise 20 per cent while its Co-operative Energy arm saw sales jump to £46 million from just £7 million the year before.

Ron is top of the pots



Ron Smith who is Stourbridge and District Snooker League best player

HE has played hundreds of frames of snooker over the past 64 years and even went cue-to-cue with Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins during an exhibition match.

Grandfather-of-nine Ron Smith proved he still knows his way around a snooker table after topping the league rankings at the age of 79.

Mr Smith beat off competition from more than 60 other players to come top of the individual players table in the Stourbridge and District Snooker League.

He plays in Division One of the league with his team from Kinver Constitutional Club where he has been a team member for 45

years. Mr Smith, a retired chimney construction business owner, won 20 out of his 24 games to win more than any other player - scoring a break of 45 in one frame. He said: "They say it is a good achievement at my age but I just really enjoy playing."

Mr Smith, who lives near Kinver with his wife Elaine, first picked up a cue aged 15 when challenged to a game by friends from Dudley Grammar School. Mr Smith played former World Snooker champion Alex Higgins at Kingswinford Conservative Club during an exhibition match when Higgins was in his 20s. He recalled: "It was a good experience to play him."

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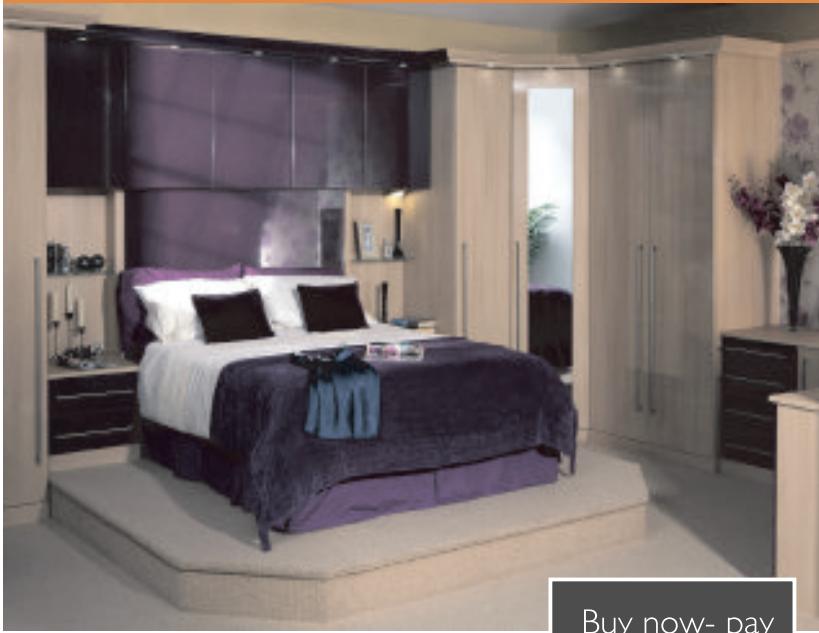
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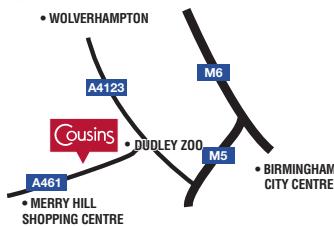
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MEMORY LANE

Visitors enjoying a miniature railway when the fair was held at Lower Pendeford Farm, Coven



The sun shines on the traction engines during the first at Lower Pendeford Farm in 1995



The cover of the original programme for the fair

Steam fair may lose traction at park site

By Alec Brew

THE first weekend in June will probably see the Wolverhampton Steam and Vintage Fair held for the last time in city's West Park.

Budget cuts at Wolverhampton City Council will mean that if it is to continue for the 20th time next year, a new site will be needed.

When it began, in 1995, it was organised by the Rotary Club of Wolverhampton at Lower Pendeford Farm, Coven, under the chairmanship of John Wootton.

The pattern was established right away, with steam traction engines, large and small, vintage vehicles, a large model marquee and other attractions.

There was a parade of vehicles around the farm each day.

Free buses were laid on to bring visitors from Wolverhampton, and

the event was considered a big success.

Subsequently, it came under the wing of the council's Outdoor Events Department, and was moved to West Park, and most significantly the parade of traction engines and vintage vehicles went through the city centre starting at noon on the Saturday.

The event was free to enter, and, weather permitting, grew into a spectacular annual attraction.

Each element of the event continued to be organised by volunteers with Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett and Jackie Wynn of Outdoor Events playing major roles, not least when Councillor Gwinnett lead the parade as mayor.

The basic elements remained in place, with a large outdoor fair in one field, and the steam and vintage vehicles in another, but new attractions were to be added, like an American Indian Village and an aircraft section organised by the Staffordshire Aircraft Restoration Team.

The parade brought startled shoppers to a standstill as steam rollers, armoured vehicles and fire engines suddenly rolled through Queen Square and around the city centre, the last such city centre parade in the country.

Council budget cuts have halved the budget for this year and will be cut altogether next year, so that if John Wootton and his team of volunteers organise the event in 2014 it will have to be elsewhere.



'American Indians' sampling a Hunter jet fighter cockpit in 2006



Lewis Squires of Tettenhall in the cockpit of a microlight

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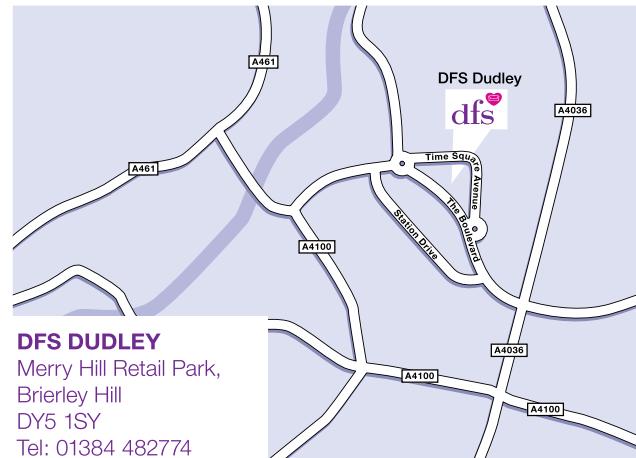
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CLUB NEWS

Club told history of chocolate

TRYULL & SEISDON WI

THE club welcomed chocolatier Jacqueline Smith to its May meeting. She began by telling the group a little of the history of chocolate.

In 1657 the first chocolate house opened in London, but it wasn't until 1847 that Joseph Fry made the cocoa into a paste that could be turned into a chocolate bar.

In 1824 John Cadbury sold tea, coffee and cocoa. He and his brother began manufacturing chocolate drinks and confectionery at the factory in Bournville.

Jacqui told how the cocoa pods are harvested and cracked open, then the beans are put in leaf lined bins to ferment. They are then left to dry naturally in the sun, or they are roasted.

She said chocolate was very good for our hearts and blood pressure. It is also an antioxidant.

She demonstrated how easy it is to make a simple chocolate lolly and sent round samples of plain, milk and white chocolate. At the end of the talk the ladies were able to buy some of her chocolates and bars.

After refreshments Clare Preese gave the answers to a chocolate quiz she had prepared earlier. Mary Farquharson won the raffle and Clare won the competition for a chocolate cupcake.

At the next meeting on June 13, the competition is a beer tankard and Bob Bibby will take the group on a cake and ale trail.

MARYLIN Ottewell was the April demonstrator. Her title was 'Get Ahead, Get a Hat'.

Marylin began with the story of her son in Peru. The arrangement was on a large vase containing mango cala lilies, sunflowers, gerbras, yellow roses, begonia leaves and hypercan berries. Her next arrangement was in a red hat.

A beautiful black and white arrangement followed

for 'Graduation' with a mortar board.

Marylin also took members for tea at the Ritz, while the last arrangement was 'The bride' using wax flower, stocks, lilies, yellow roses and orchids.

The June 25 demonstration is by Isobel Liston, entitled 'Powerful Women'.

Insight into hospice work by fundraiser



WALSALL CENTRAL EAST TOWNSWOMEN

NEW Chairman Mrs Patricia Jones opened both the April and May meetings by welcoming all the members and visitors, before dealing with the business part of the meetings.

In April she then welcomed speaker Jenny Chin whose subject was 'The Work Of The Hospice'.

Jenny is a fundraiser for St Giles Hospice Walsall and gave a very interesting and informative talk on the work and financing of St Giles.

The May meeting, due to a number of members being on holiday, a Beetle Drive was held. This was a wonderful success, which led to a better fellowship with the newer members who had recently joined from the former Mellish Guild.

A coffee morning was being held in May, with proceeds being donated to St Giles Hospice.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday June 4 at Walsall Central Methodist Church in the Mellish Room from 7pm. The speaker will be Amanda Green whose talk will be 'Beanstalk Literary Charity'.

Members and friends are invited.

Hats off to demonstration

WALL HEATH FLOWER CLUB

red vase containing Singapore orchids, stocks, red tulips, red roses, anthuriums and phlox, this incorporated a red hat.

A beautiful black and white arrangement followed

MARYLIN Ottewell was the April demonstrator. Her title was 'Get Ahead, Get a Hat'.

Marylin began with the story of her son in Peru. The arrangement was on a large vase containing mango cala lilies, sunflowers, gerbras, yellow roses, begonia leaves and hypercan berries. Her next arrangement was in a red hat.

A beautiful black and white arrangement followed

CHARITY CAMPAIGNS FOR MORE FOSTER CARERS



Barnardo's is backing a national campaign to recruit more foster carers and is appealing to people across the West Midlands to consider sharing their home with a child in need.

With an estimated 950 children in the West Midlands looking for a foster home, Barnardo's is hoping to use Foster Care Fortnight 2013 (13-26 May) to attract more carers from the region to come forward. The theme of this year's campaign is "In the Frame" and Barnardo's West Midlands Family Placement Services hope many more people will step forward and put themselves in the frame to find out more about fostering.

They need foster carers to look after children either on a short term or long term basis, as well as to provide regular short breaks to families with disabled children.

Regular information evenings are staged at the service's base in Dudley where potential foster and adoptive families can find out more and ask questions.

A social worker will then visit prospective carers at home, prospective carers will then undergo preparation and assessment training which takes around 4-6 months on average to complete.

Carers have their own social worker to support them throughout the process and new foster carers will also be "mentored" by an experienced foster carer to provide additional help for the first six months.

"Many people think you have to be married, or under a certain age to foster, but that's not the case," says Sara Castro, who manages Barnardo's West Midlands Family Placement Service.

"You have to be over the age of 21 and have a spare bedroom, but can be married, single, or in a same sex relationship. The main thing is that you can offer a child or children a safe, nurturing experience of family life."

Case Study:

When Gill and Ken Cademy from Rugeley got together, they couldn't have children of their own.

Gill had a son and Ken had two older boys from previous marriages and so wanting another child together, they decided to adopt through Barnardo's.

Their first glimpse of the girl that was to become their daughter was a photo in a "Find a Family magazine". At nine years old, Becky was a little older than the child they'd initially anticipated adopting.

But the photo of the smiling bubbly little girl with hair plaited, and head cocked to one side, won them over and having gone through all the preparation and training, they were soon united.

Despite a cool reception from Jack, who by now was 12, in the car coming home from the station, Becky soon became the daughter they'd always dreamed of.

So when Becky went off to college to study beauty therapy, the couple decided they could open up their home to another child, and they came back to Barnardo's as potential foster carers.

They underwent training and preparation - which included interviewing Becky and Jack - and were approved to foster another child.

After two short term foster placements they decided they could offer long term foster care to a child and in January became the "forever family" to a six year old little girl, "Gemma" (not her real name).

Part Of the family

Gemma has quickly become part of the family and loves having older brothers and sister - especially when she gets to dress up in party dress and have her hair curled just like Becky.

Now aged 18, Becky said: "It's great that I have been on both sides of the fence, having been fostered and now being part of a family who are fostering.

"I know exactly how it feels and can really relate to Gemma and her needs."

Becky has been helping prepare potential foster carers and adopters has helped create special resources used during their training.

"I was really pleased to be asked by the West Midlands Family Placement Service to help develop some of their training resources. So much so, that I'm now looking towards a career in social work instead of beauty."

"I feel that thanks to the loving family who adopted me at the age of nine, I have so much to give and hopefully that will help other children and families in future."

Gill said: "If you are considering fostering then I'd definitely say go and find out more. It can be challenging, it can be frustrating but we were never put off and it is very rewarding."

"Many people under-estimate the amount of time it takes to go through all the necessary checks and training, so again, I'd urge people who are thinking about it, to just do it."

"One of the things I discovered was the importance of the extended family, grandparents, aunts and uncles in welcoming a new child and making them feel part of the family."

If you are interested in finding out more about fostering or adoption, please call Barnardo's West Midlands Family Placement Service on 01384 458585.

Dambusters flypast



A Lancaster bomber flying over RAF Cosford

Spectators at Cosford watching the aerial spectacle
THE 70th anniversary of the Dambusters raid was celebrated this afternoon with a flypast at the RAF Museum, Cosford.

A Lancaster bomber performed the flypast just before 12.30pm last Thursday, flying over the museum three times before thundering off into the distance. About 800 onlookers were there to watch.

It was the first time the museum has seen the iconic bombers perform a flypast. The flypast marks 70 years since 19 Lancaster bombers took off from RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, on a mission to destroy German dams with a revolutionary 'bouncing' bomb.

Paul Stratford, 62, from Lichfield, said he went to the museum with his daughter and grandson. He said: "It flew very low, and it looked really big."

Philip Bebb, from Shrewsbury, was there with his wife Rosemary. He had previously been in the RAF and trained at Shawbury in 1959. He said: "It's wonderful to see and it was flying quite a lot lower than normal."

NEWS

Families are £44 a week worse off, say figures

PEOPLE are up to £44 a week worse off since 2010 because of rising inflation new figures claim.

Workers in Staffordshire are up to £2,288 a year worse off in real terms while people in the Black Country are between £26 and £36 a week poorer. The figures, from the Office of National Statistics, have been seized upon by the GMB trade union which said soaring fuel and food costs had been outstripping pay increases, leading to a cut in living standards.

Three years ago the average weekly wage in the West Midlands was £469 and since then it has stayed the same.

Nationally the minimum wage is set to rise 12p an hour to £6.31 from October under plans announced by business secretary Vince Cable.

However, the GMB said that to cope with inflation the average wage would need to be £507 a week, meaning people are on average £38 a week or £1,976 a year worse off. Staffordshire has been the hardest hit.

In 2010 the average wage was £495 but it has actually fallen by £4. Coupled with inflation people are now £44 a week worse off. In Dudley wages went up from an average £451 a week to £455

over two years but inflation means people are £1,664 a year worse off.

In Sandwell wages rose from £418 to £425 but people are £1,352 a year worse off on average.

Walsall people are £1,924 a year on average worse off due to inflation and a cut in wages from £424 to £419.

Wolverhampton saw wages rise from £424 a week to £431 but inflation wiped out the improvement and left people £27 a week or £1,404 a year worse off.

The cuts has been calculated taking into account wage increases and inflation. Political officer for the GMB union, Stephanie Peacock accused the Government of not doing enough.

She said: "Families are suffering more in many parts of the country because of the Government's out of touch policies.

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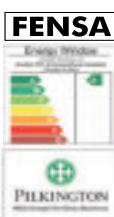
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THE WAY I SEE IT

1,000 people say we should keep our local TA regiment

OUR TA regiment, the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry, has a history dating back to 1799.

The base on Vicar Street houses A Squadron. It attracts recruits from across the Black Country and two dozen volunteers are on active service overseas.

But under Ministry of Defence plans, the regiment will be disbanded so a new Scottish unit can be set up.

If it goes ahead, the Midlands would lose half its five squadrons so that a new organisation can be created, which will be difficult and expensive at a time when the MoD is already having to make great savings.

I have worked very closely with members of the Territorial Army in Dudley, their families and supporters for many years and I'm going to fight these plans all the way.

I've written to Defence Secretary, Philip Hammond, tabled a series of Parliamentary Questions and spoken out in Parliament.

Now one of the Squadron wives has created an online petition.

I've added my name and I'm urging people in Dudley to do the same. Nearly 1,000 local people have signed so far.

The RMLY is also one of the best recruited yeomanry regiments in the Territorial Army and a recent recruitment drive saw an extra 47 people



Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

"Of the 133 airman who set out just 80 survived. We should never forget their contribution to securing Britain's liberty and the world's freedom."

brought into training. Another 60 leads are being pursued.

It makes no sense to scrap a popular and expanding regiment with deep roots in the local community when the TA is due to double in size in the next few years.

We need to send a strong message that people in Dudley want the regiment to remain in the town. To add your name to the petition go to <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49480>

Cost of living

Last week I stood up in the House of Commons to demand the Government does more to help local families cope with the rising cost of living.

I told Government Minis-

ters about the results of a constituency survey which showed that nine out of 10 Dudley families don't think they'll be better off next year.

Eight out of 10 told me they spent less at Christmas this year and a similar number stopped saving.

The Office of Budget Responsibility says that real wages will be lower in 2015 than when this Government came to power.

But with living standards falling, prices rising and more and more people worried about the security of their job, the Government has prioritised a tax cut for the super rich.

I wanted to know why the Government is cutting taxes for millionaires instead of helping hard-

pressed families in places like Dudley.

Dambusters

It was a privilege to join local veterans at a service at Coronation Gardens to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Dambusters Raid.

On the evening of 16 May 1943 airmen from the RAF's 617 Squadron set out to attack three dams in the Ruhr Valley.

They showed unimaginable bravery, flying low in the dead of night to breach the dams and seriously disrupt the German war effort.

Of the 133 airmen who set out just 80 survived.

We should never forget their contribution to securing Britain's liberty and the world's freedom.

New mayoral team

Congratulations to brilliant Castle and Priory councillors Alan Finch and Margaret Aston who will be the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Dudley.

Both have given outstanding service to the people of the Wren's Nest and the Priory over the years and this is a great reward for all they've achieved.

Alan has nominated The White House Cancer Support and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People as his Mayoral charities and he's going to dedicate his Mayoral year to raising as much money as possible for these great charities.

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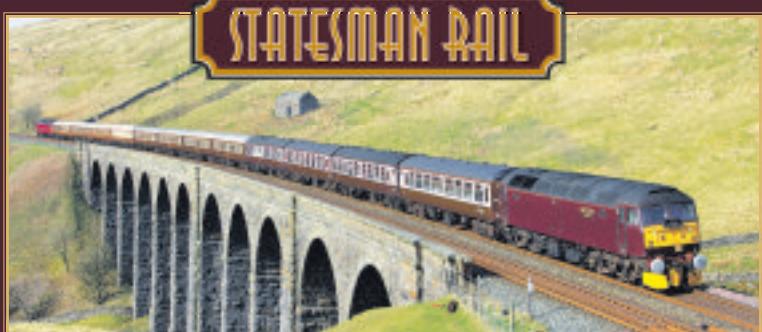
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HOMES

Spice up the kitchen with a hot makeover

WITH the kitchen now heralded as the social hub of the house, where family and friends get together to chat, eat and relax, it is becoming a focal point for more vibrant colours and styles.

Makeover experts Granite Transformations look at the hottest design trends for 2013, which enable the kitchen to take on an exciting new look, without breaking the bank.

1 Kitchen Remodelling

The hottest trend is remodelling, which involves retaining the familiar layout and cabinetry, but refacing the worktops and replacing the old cabinet doors and drawer fronts. Not only does this mean less disruption and outlay than a new fitted kitchen, you are likely to recoup most of the remodelling costs if you're planning to sell.

2 Colourful Kitchens

You could indulge in the big new trend for vibrant colours. You could choose bold primaries like red, orange and emerald green for worktops, reflecting a more casual, upbeat way of living, or go for high gloss door facings in olive, paprika, blueberry or plum.

3 Mixed Finishes

Take a cue from interior designers, with a mix of cabinetry finishes that combine dark and lighter tones at different levels, to give an eclectic look. Or perhaps choose a different worktop colour for an island for a contrast.

4 Bolder Splashbacks

Regular splashbacks provide protection from moisture and grease, but today's trend is towards bigger, broader surrounds that also make a decorative statement. Extend composite granite, quartz and recycled glass work surfaces to the underside of wall units or ceiling height for a luxurious finish or go for



glass mosaic tiles for sparkling elegance.

5 Cleaner Lines

Follow the continental fashion for cool, sleek lines, featuring flat slab doors with no handles or minimalist door and drawer pulls. There's also a move toward matt finishes as an alternative to high gloss doors. Deeper edge profiles on replacement worktops give a solid contemporary look, without the extra weight of solid stone.

6 Island Units

If space allows, an island unit turns your layout into a designer kitchen, with bar stools for informal eating, drinking and conversation.

7 Eco-Chic Materials

Vibrant colours like the paprika on the wall cabinet doors reflect an upbeat way of living while adding decorative murals and custom glass mosaics, inset, could give some sparkling elegance to your kitchen

Design trends reflect that the 'green' movement is still gathering momentum, with eco-friendly materials gaining in popularity. Choose from recycled glass worktops, or composite granite and quartz surfaces containing natural stone salvaged from quarrying sites.

8 Decorative Murals

Most kitchens have limited wall space, but it's good to introduce a bold splash of colour with a decorative wall mural or feature panel. Authentic glass mosaic tiles mounted on a backing matress introduce colour, texture and a tactile finish, while natural daylight and halogen spotlights contribute a sparkling, reflective dimension.

Offering a complete remodelling service, Granite Transformations can provide all these kitchen design upgrades and more. Go to www.granitetransformations.co.uk to check out your nearest showroom.

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Brits come clean on state of their homes

MILLIONS of Brits reckon their home is a 'pigsty' because they are just too busy to clean, according to a new study.

Researchers have found that seven in 10 of us are unable to find the time to take care of everyday chores such as vacuuming, dusting and cleaning the bathroom.

Fifty-seven per cent of people even admitted they have times when they would describe their home as a 'pigsty' because they never have a chance to tidy it up.

More than one in five have even refused to let people into their home because it was in such a mess.

A spokesperson for cleaning product firm Spontex, which commissioned the research, said: "We are leading busier lives than ever and when you are juggling so much, it's inevitable that something has to give."

Chunks

"And it seems that for many, staying on top of their household chores and keeping their home spotless is what they are letting fall by the wayside.

"But this means that many Brits aren't happy with the state of the home, and it's alarming to see that so many even have times when they would describe their home as being like a pigsty."

"Cleaning can be done in small chunks which makes it much more manageable to fit everything in and around your everyday life."

"If you are struggling to fit the chores in, rather than doing a big clean once in a while, running the vacuum round one day and then cleaning the bathrooms the next can make life a lot easier."

The study of 2,000 people found that



Are you one of those who has not dusted in the past six months?

63 per cent do not think their home is as clean as they would like it to be, with half of those blaming this on being too busy to clean.

Another 39 per cent simply do not like cleaning while 21 per cent do not think they are very good at it.

And almost a quarter say they have got better things to do than worry about the state of their house.

Forty-two per cent have never cleaned their home from top to bottom,

and, even those who have admit it was an average of almost five months since they last did this.

More than one in 10 owned up to not cleaning their bathroom for at least a month nor having done any ironing for a year.

One in 20 had not washed clothes and one in 10 had not got the vacuum out for a month or more.

Almost one in 10 had not used a duster for at least six months, while one in 20 admitted it had been at least a year since mopping the floors.

More than one in 20 owned up to never cleaning their windows.

And 60 per cent did not think they will ever have a spotless home.

Researchers also revealed that a third of people's homes are such a mess, that visitors or friends have commented on the state of it.

Clutter

And more than half have rowed with their other half about the mess.

It also emerged that 73 per cent of people regularly shove things under cushions or behind sofas so any clutter is out of sight when someone pops in.

While 60 per cent have shut doors to certain rooms so guests cannot see the mess. Despite this, 90 per cent claim they consider themselves to be a tidy person.

The Spontex spokesperson added: "Our advice is to do a few, small tasks daily or several times a week rather than try and spend a whole day just cleaning.

"This will keep your home in top condition with minimal effort and give you the satisfaction of completing your chores."

"Many people feel a real sense of fulfilment and more in control of their lives when they are on top of jobs round the house."

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What's On! Dudley

REVIEW

Eddie Izzard,
NIA, Birmingham

A MASTER of rambling, absurdist humour, only perhaps Paul Merton can get close to Eddie Izzard when it comes to bizarre flights of fancy.

But the self-proclaimed 'action transvestite' never really seemed to hit top gear in Birmingham on Wednesday night. Maybe it was the venue, the humour evaporating in the cavernous environs of the NIA. It would have hit home at a packed Symphony Hall or Hippodrome rather than a half-empty arena. Turning to watch him on the big screens beside the stage literally became a pain in the neck.

Izzard, looking dapper in a suit with wine-red nail varnish and high heels, did not disappoint as he talked his constantly amusing rubbish for nearly two hours. It seemed like stream of consciousness but must have been structured. Yet the Force Majeure tour's 'God' theme remained vague and pointless, though apparently 'Steve God' sounds like Darth Vader.

There were wonderful surreal episodes featuring ghost cows, a banjo-playing Kraken and gold-mining bling moles in sports cars, all as disjointed as the Tweets from his fans screened before the show and during the 20-minute interval. His thoughts on dressage 'only useful if you want to park a horse in a cupboard' – were priceless.

Leon Burakowski

Glamorous lawyer briefs encounters

STAR of An Evening of Burlesque Bettissie Bonbon is not just a pretty face.

Bettissie, who will be bringing her show to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre tomorrow night (Friday), studied law at university, got a good degree and went on to become an under-written at Lloyds of London.

However, a few years ago, Bettissie decided to concentrate on a career involving figures of a very different nature, becoming a full-time burlesque performer, and she says she has never looked back.

Parody

Now also a teacher at The London Academy of Burlesque, Bettissie said: "There are so many misconceptions regarding what a burlesque show is all about.

"It's very tongue in cheek and I think more people are realising that now. Burlesque is the Italian word for parody."

"Burlesque and variety, the two go hand in hand," added Bettissie. "So expect the glamour and the girls in the show to be interspersed by equally outrageous specialty acts."

Women regularly outnumber men in auditoriums on An Evening of Burlesque's tour. Contact the box office on 01902 429212.



More than just a pretty face – burlesque artist Bettissie Bonbon

IN THEIR 25th anniversary year Texas release a new studio album this week and return in November with a UK tour including a headline show at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

Texas's eighth album, The Conversation, is their first in eight years and the latest in a career that has seen the band sell over 30 million albums worldwide. Their multi-platinum albums include White on Blonde, The Hush and a Greatest Hits including such tracks as their 1989 debut I Don't Want A Lover, Say What You Want and In Our Lifetime.

Guitarist

This overdue return features tracks written and produced by founder members of the Glaswegian band singer/guitarist Sharleen Spiteri and bassist Johnny McElhone, alongside collaborations with singer-songwriter Richard Hawley and former Suede guitarist Bernard Butler.

The album was recorded in Glasgow, London and at Richard Hawley's studio in Sheffield for a marriage of Hawley's '50s rock'n'roll frills and the Texas sound.

Texas play the Symphony Hall on November 18. Tickets start from £37. Call 0121 345 0600.



Texas singer Sharleen Spiteri

Join trip to The Planets

EVER wondered what it is like to play in an orchestra? Or conduct The Planets?

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Universe of Sound digital installation of Holst's famous work, allowing you to explore an orchestra using touch screens and planetarium-style projections at Birmingham Municipal Bank at 300 Broad Street from this Saturday to June 16, 11am to 6pm.

REVIEW

Paper Aeroplanes,
Glee Club, Birmingham

SARAH Howells provides the distinctively clear voice for the duo Paper Aeroplanes with Richard Llewellyn playing his half of the act with lead guitar, backing vocals and harmonies.

Raven-haired, Howells' piercingly clear voice has a fantastic range, seemingly unlimited power and yet at times manages to keep a childlike quality to it.

Starting out with A Time to Be which was a much louder version that had much more of a rock feel to it than the ethereal acoustic version on their new album Little Letters.

Therein lies a potential problem. It seems the live versions of their tracks on the album promotion tour are much harder and heavier and if you have only heard them from the recording it could be something of a shock when you hear them live.

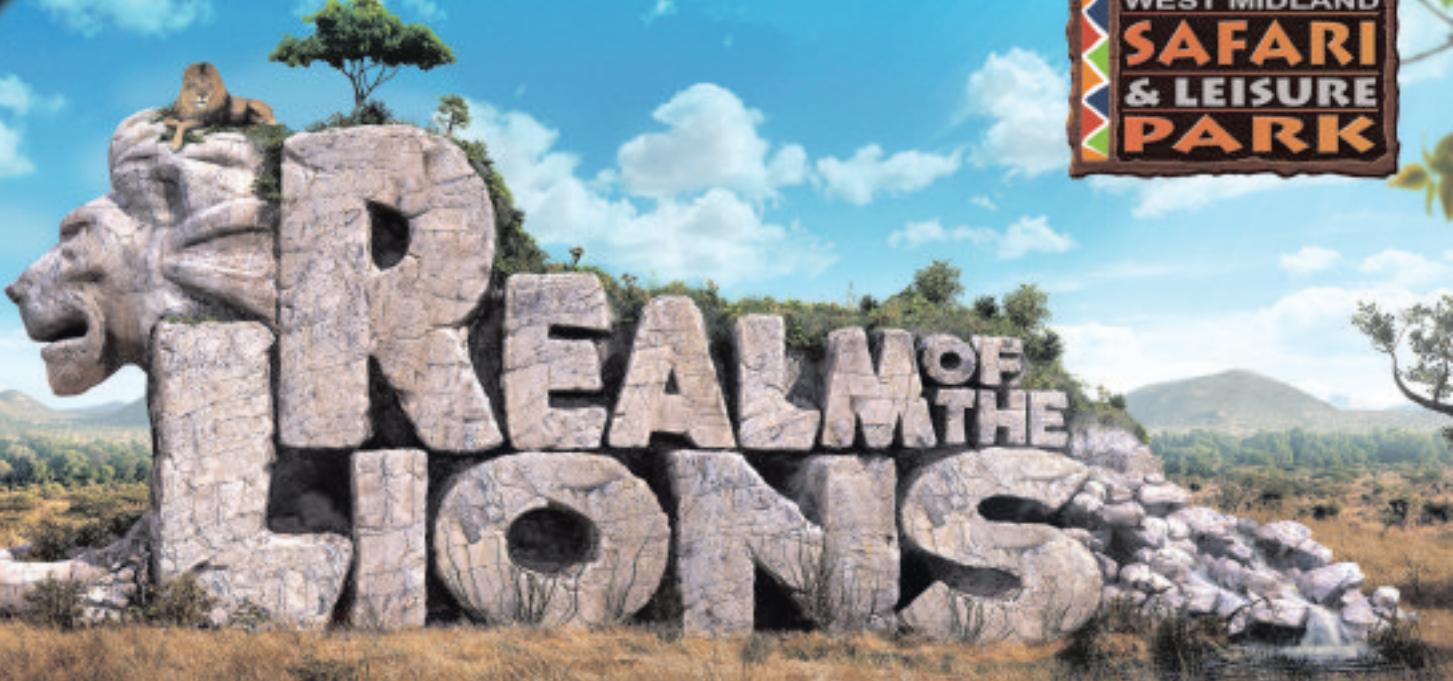
Also from their new album was At the Altar which was a strong ballad which built up slowly then dropped out for the verses before building back up again for the chorus. For the Same Mistakes Howells allowed the softer side of her voice free rein for this torch song.

The set included mostly tracks from Little Letters with the odd oldie thrown in. For the strong ballad Lifelight, Howells' voice stood out, hitting high and low notes with consummate ease.

Danny Farragher

Texas make a long overdue return to celebrate 25 years

NEW FOR
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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 25.05.13

CHOICE



Oliver Coleman

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast, **10.00** Saturday Kitchen, **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather, **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Live Athletics: Great Manchester City Games. **2.30** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.35** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying.
- 6.50** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.
- 7.10** The Voice UK. Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates host the final battle show by the end of which Jessie J, Tom Jones, Dannii Minogue, O'Donnell and Will.i.am will be one step closer to choosing their acts.
- 9.20** The National Lottery Draws. Jenni Falconer sets the balls rolling to decide the all-important numbers.
- 9.30** Casualty. Tom takes the lead when a baby is rushed in with breathing difficulties, and having previously failed to notice a youngster's meningitis, he is determined to be thorough.
- 10.20** BBC News: Weather.
- 10.40** Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. The comedian is joined by Kevin Bridges, Daniel Sloss, Milton Jones and Craig Campbell at Glasgow's Theatre Royal; (R) National Lottery Update.
- 11.25 Film:** Eagle Eye. (2008) Two strangers go on the run from a secret service after receiving phone calls warning their lives are in danger. Thriller, with Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan and Rosario Dawson.
- 1.15** Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00** This Is BBC Two. **6.45** Film: Stage Door. (1937) **8.15** Film: Two Tickets to Broadway. (1951) **10.00** Map Man. (R) **11.30** Just a Minute. (R) **12.00** The Chef's Protégé. (R) **12.30** The Chef's Protégé. (R) **1.00** The Chef's Protégé. (R) **2.00** The Chef's Protege. (R) **2.30** The Chef's Protege. (R) **3.00** Auction Hero. (R) **4.00** Antiques Road Trip. **5.00** Flog It! (R)
- 6.00** Golf: PGA Championship. The third day from Wentworth.
- 7.00** Chelsea Flower Show 2013. The title gardens, curated by Joe Swift and Nicki Chapman to observe the traditional mass sell-off, in which crowds jostle for the most sought-after plants and flowers.
- 8.20** Dad's Army. Mainwaring's men pose as traitors to see how the residents of Walmington-on-Sea would deal with genuine Nazi infiltrators in their midst. (R)
- 8.50** QI. Stephen Fry is joined by Sandi Toksvig, John Lloyd, Johnny Vegas and regular panellist Alan Davies on the quiz, in which the hosts ask hypothetical questions. (R)
- 9.20** David Bowie: Five Years. A look at the five years since the singer's career, which saw him redefine himself as an artist by adopting different personas – including Ziggy Stardust and the Thin White Duke.
- 10.50 Film:** The Man Who Fell to Earth. (1976) Nicolas Roeg's sci-fi drama starring David Bowie, Rip Torn, Candy Clark and Buck Henry.
- 1.05 Film:** The Wackness. (2008) **2.40** This Is BBC Two. **5.55** Film: The Mad Miss Manton. (1938)

ITV

- 6.00** CITV: Special Agent Oso. **6.10** Special Agent Oso. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **7.00** British Rallycross. **7.25** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.05** The Simpsons. (R) **12.35** Heston's Fantastical Food. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Goodwood Park, Goodwood and York. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
- 6.15** Come Dine with Me. Stelios Michael hosts the final night in Hastings, East Sussex, hoping to impress his guests with a Greek-inspired evening, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)
- 6.40** Channel 4 News.
- 7.00** Film: Titanic. (1997) A wealthy oil heir falls in love with a penniless artist during the liner's ill-fated voyage. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio.
- 10.40 Film:** 48 Hrs. (1982) A hard-bitten cop temporarily released on fast-track to criminal from prison to help him track down two escaped fugitives. Comedy thriller, starring Nick Nolte, Eddie Murphy, Annette O'Toole and James Remar.
- 12.30** Dylan Moran Live: Yeah, Yeah. A performance from the comedian's 2011 tour. (R) **1.25** Gathland. (R) **2.15** Hopping's Omnibus. (R) **4.15** Deal or No Deal. High-stakes game show, with Noel Edmonds. (R) **5.10** Countdown. (R) **5.55** SuperScrimpers.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.10** Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hobbs. (R) **7.00** British Rallycross. **7.25** ThunderCats. (R) **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.20** WW1's Tunnels of Death: The Big Dig. (R) **12.20** Film: The Dam Busters. (1954) **2.55** Film: Ben-Hur. (1959)
- 7.00** Cricket on 5. England v New Zealand. Highlights of day two of the Second Test in the two-match series, which takes place at Headingley.
- 8.00** 5 News Weekend.
- 8.05** NCIS. Tony and Ziva trace a suspected terrorist to a warehouse, where they find evidence suggesting a nuclear attack on Washington. Drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)
- 9.00** Film: An Iraqi war veteran asks God for justice after the killing of another former marine, who was murdered while working as a lorry driver, so Ziva hits the road to catch the culprit. (R)
- 9.55** True Crimes: Angel of Death. When the number of deaths in an Indiana intensive care unit rapidly increases, a astute nurse helps a team of detectives to find the culprit. (R)
- 10.25 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** An animal rights campaigner is found murdered.
- 11.20 Law & Order: Criminal Intent.** A murderer with multiple personalities is on the loose. Last in the series.
- 12.15 SuperCasino. 4.00** Michael's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.50** Cuppy Seats. (R) **5.15** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.35** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00** Milkshake! **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.45** ThunderCats. (R) **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.20** WW1's Tunnels of Death: The Big Dig. (R) **12.20** Film: Ben-Hur. (1959)
- 2.55** Film: The Dam Busters. (1954)
- 7.00** Cricket on 5. England v New Zealand. Highlights of day two of the Second Test in the two-match series, which takes place at Headingley.
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Listings supplied by Press Association

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend 2013
- 11.00** The Voice UK
- BBC Four**
- 7.00** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **8.00** British Masters – Part Two
- 10.30** Ultimate Number 1s at the BBC **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1978
- ITV2**
- 4.45** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **7.00** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep, **9.10** Film: Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (2004) Romantic comedy sequel, with Renée Zellweger and Colin Firth. **11.20** Celebrity Juice
- ITV3**
- 2.00** Film: Agatha Christie's Murder in Three Acts (1986) **4.00** Northanger Abbey **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Wire in the Blood
- ITV4**
- 3.40** Film: A Team of Champions League **5.40** Mourinho **6.45** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) Action comedy, starring Clint Eastwood, **8.00** Film: Barbi Wire (1996) Sci-fi thriller, starring Pamela Anderson. **11.00** Premiership Rugby Union
- E4**
- 5.30** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Happy Endings **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** Film: Daredevil (2003) Comic book adventure, starring Ben Affleck. **10.15** The Big Bang Theory
- Film4**
- 3.00** The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958) **4.15** Return of the King (1997) **6.00** Mission: Impossible 2 (2000) Action thriller sequel, starring Tom Cruise. **9.00** Forrest Gump (1994) Comedy drama, starring Tom Hanks. **11.40** The Crazies (2010)

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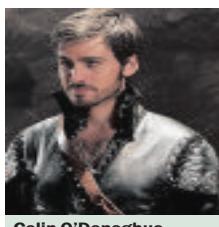
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What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

SUNDAY'S TV 26.05.13**CHOICE**

Colin O'Donoghue

**Once Upon a Time
Channel 5, 8pm**

For almost half a century Barbara Hershey has been one of the most dynamic actresses working in Hollywood. She's also rather good in this saga from the Disney stable. In the latest offering, Cora (Hershey) sends her zombies to abduct Aurora (Sarah Bolger) and swap her for the enchanted compass the sorceress needs to travel to Storybook. Elsewhere, Snow takes the sleeping powder in the hope of warning the local residents of the danger, and Captain Hook (Colin O'Donoghue) appears to be playing a game of his own.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Battle of the Atlantic Remembered. **12.00** The Big Ol' Country Weatherman. **12.35** The Week Ahead. **1.05** Countryfile. **(R) 2.00** Regional Programme. **2.30** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 3.15** Points of View. **3.30** Escape to the Country. **(R) 4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Children's Power Show 2013. **5.35** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix – Highlights. **7.05** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.30** Countryfile. East Yorkshire is this week's location as Matt Baker finds out about marsh management on the Humber estuary and Julia Bradbury visits the Leighton Moss MOD School for Transport. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.30** Case Histories. Jackson is asked to find out if a woman's fiance is cheating on her – only to find himself investigating a suspected murder. Marlee moves in and Deborah turns to honey-trapping. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **10.25** My Hero: Hugh Dennis on Ronnie Barker. Outnumbered star Hugh Dennis pays affectionate tribute to Ronnie Barker – the star of Porridge and the Two Ronnies – before moving his career from the London stage to TV. **11.25** Film: The Lake House. (2006) Two strangers who exchange letters fall in love – but discover they are existing two years apart. Romantic fantasy, starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Kiera Knightley and Christopher Plummer. **1.00** Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

7.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. **8.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.30** Saturday Kitchen: Best Dishes. **10.00** Live at the BBC: Grand Manchester Run. **12.35** EastEnders. **(R) 2.25** Live Women's FA Cup Final. **5.15** Flog It! (R) **6.00** Golf: PGA Championship. Day four from Wentworth. **7.00** Racing Legends: Stirling Moss. Actor Patrick Stewart and former racing driver Stirling Moss race each other in a classic Mercedes to retrace the route of Italy's most famous road race – the Mille Miglia. **(R) 8.00** Porridge. Fletcher helps cellmate Godber make it through the night, calling on his limitless imagination to invent new ways to entertain. Comedy, starring Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale. **(R) 8.30** Ice Age Giants. Alice Roberts discovers evidence of a conflict between a cave bear and a lion in Transylvania, and examines the well-preserved remains of a female woolly rhinoceros in Siberia. **9.30** Australia with Simon Reeve. The author and adventurer continues his Australian journey with visits to Kakadu National Park, the remote northern Bush, Cape York Peninsula and the Great Barrier Reef. **10.30** Film: Cinderella Man. (2005) A washed-up boxer struggling to support his family during the Great Depression tries to launch a comeback. Drama, with Russell Crowe, Renée Zellweger, Kate Winslet and Christopher Plummer. **12.45** Film: The Lake House. (2006) Two strangers who exchange letters fall in love – but discover they are existing two years apart. Romantic fantasy, starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Kiera Knightley and Christopher Plummer. **1.40** Holby City. **(R) 2.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Special Agent Oso. **6.10** Special Agent Oso. **6.25** The Hive. **(R) 6.35** The Hive. **(R) 6.40** Dino Dan. **6.55** Dino Dan. **7.05** Camimals. **(R) 7.15** Camimals. **(R) 7.20** Almost Naked Animals. **(R) 7.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 10.00** Mother, She Wrote. **11.20** TV News: Weather. **11.30** Live French Open Tennis. **6.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Celebrity Catchphrase. Kym Lomas, Steve Pemberton and Rosemary Shrager compete to identify familiar phrases hidden in animated clips, worth thousands of pounds for charity. **8.00** Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the final round of auditions. **9.00** Coronation Street. Stella and Karl rejoin the Rovers. **9.30** The Scapegoat. A man is persuaded to swap places with his perfect double and finds himself drawn into a new life, with disastrous consequences. Sophie du Maurier adaptation, starring Matthew Rhys. Concludes after the news. **(R) 10.35** ITV News: Weather. **10.50** The Scapegoat. Conclusion of the Du Maurier adaptation, starring Matthew Rhys. **(R) 11.50** Premiership Rugby Union. Northampton Saints v Leicester Tigers. **12.45** The Store. **2.15** Monk. **(R) 3.00** Sportsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 1.40** This Is BBC Two.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. **(R) 6.35** The Hoobs. **(R) 7.00** Xtreme Storm. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **8.00** The Big Bang Theory. **8.25** Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical. **(R) 8.30** The Men Show. **(R) 8.45** Chloe's Closet. **6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too. **(R) 7.00** Bananas in Pyjamas. **(R) 7.15** Animal Antics. **(R) 7.20** Noddy in Toyland. **(R) 7.30** The Simpsons. **(R) 2.00** The Simpsons. **(R) 2.30** No Deal. **3.00** Film: Volcano. (1997) Disaster thriller, starring Tommy Lee Jones. **5.30** Film: Tooth Fairy. (2010) Premiere. Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. **7.30** Channel 4 News. **8.00** Clare Balding's Secrets of a Suffragette. The presenter investigates the death of militant activist Emily Wilding Davison, who died in the 1913 Epsom Derby and offers a fresh perspective on what really happened that day. **9.00** Film: Another Year. (2010) Premiere. A couple approaching retirement are visited by friends and family less happy with their lives. Mike Leigh's comedy drama, starring Lesley Manville and Jim Broadbent. **11.30** Film: The Cider House Rules. (1999) A doctor's assistant living in the orphanage where he grew up sets out to see more of life, but faces difficult moral decisions. Drama, starring Tobey Maguire and Michael Caine. **1.40** Film: Murder Ahoy. (1964) Mystery, starring Margaret Rutherford. **3.20** Come Dine with Me. Four amateur chefs compete in north-west London. **(R) 4.15** Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. **5.10** Countdown. With guest Jo Brand. **(R) 5.55** SuperScrimpers.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. **(R) 6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventure. **(R) 6.30** The Mr Men Show. **(R) 6.45** The World's Best Friend. **(R) 6.50** The Little Prince. **(R) 6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too. **(R) 7.00** Bananas in Pyjamas. **(R) 7.15** Animal Antics. **(R) 7.20** Noddy in Toyland. **(R) 7.30** The Simpsons. **(R) 7.45** Jelly Friends. **(R) 7.50** Harry's Helpline. **(R) 8.00** Little Princess. **(R) 8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. **(R) 8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **(R) 8.45** Rupert Kingfisher. **(R) 9.15** Tom and Holly's Little Kingdom. **(R) 9.30** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 9.45** Jolly Jamm. **(R) 10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **(R) 10.35** ThunderCats. **(R) 11.05** How Do They Do It? **(R) 11.35** The Hotel Inspector. **(R) 12.30** The Hotel Inspector. **(R) 1.30** Film: Cats & Dogs. **(2001)** **3.00** Film: Winnie the Pooh. **(2011)** **4.20** Film: Scooby-Doo. **(2002)**. **6.00** World's Craziest Weddings. Incidents and stunts that made people's special days even more memorable. **(R) 6.55** 5 News Weekend. **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v New Zealand. **8.00** Once Upon a Time. Cora sends her zombies to abduct Aurora. **9.00** Film: Drag Me to Hell. (2009) Premiere. Horror, starring Alison Lohman. **11.05** Film: My Soulmate. (2010) Premiere. Horror, starring Mac Thieriot. **1.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **4.50** County Secrets. **(R) 5.05** Hana's Helpline. **(R) 5.15** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 5.25** The Price of Valley Show. **(R) 5.35** Hana's Helpline. **(R) 5.50** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 6.00**

DIGITAL**BBC Three**

7.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend 2013. **11.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra. **11.45** Sweat the Small Stuff: Extra Sweaty. **BBC Four**

7.00 The Dark Ages: An Age of

Tunnel Wars. **9.00** Nina Conti: Talk to the Hand. **10.05** Timeshift: Wrestling's Golden Age: Grappling, Grunts and Grannies. **11.05** Arena: Sonny Rollins: '74 – Rescued!

ITV2

3.45 You've Been Framed! **4.15** Film: Back to the Future Part III (1990). **5.30** Film: Supercar. **6.00** Film: The Mummy (1999). **6.45** Film: The Bourne Supremacy (2004) Action thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon.

ITV3

2.45 Live in the Premier League Cricket Coverage of the final at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. **8.00** Preview: Rugby Union 9.00. **Film:** Kull the Conqueror (1997) **11.00** French Open Tennis Highlights.

E4

3.45 Revenge. **4.50** The Mindy Project. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.30** New Girl. **8.00** Film: X-Men (2000). **10.00** Rude Tube 2012. **Film4**

3.05 Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992). **4.50** New in Town (2009). **6.40** Green Zone Interview Special. **6.50** Crocodile Dundee II (1988). **7.00** The Siege of Jadotville thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Rose Byrne. **11.20** Festen (1998).

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Romancing the Stone, Channel 4, 1.05pm
A romantic novelist goes in search of her kidnapped sister in the steamy jungles of South America, only to become the target of a villainous general who demands a ransom as the valuable treasure map in her possession. Help is at hand in the form of a craggy daredevil fortune hunter. Michael Douglas stars. (1984)

Cool Runnings, BBC1, 1.55pm

A sprinter fails to qualify for the Jamaican Olympic squad, but refuses to give up his dream. Learning that a former US bobsleigh coach is living nearby, he seizes the chance to shine in an entirely different sport, and cajoles three of his friends to join him in training for the 1988 Winter Olympics in the far less tropical environment of Canada. Fact-based comedy, with John Candy. (1993)

TUESDAY

Desperado, Channel 5, 10.50pm

A mysterious musician carrying a guitar case full of firearms turns up in a small backwoods town to exact revenge on the drug baron who killed his girlfriend and permanently injured his hand. Robert Rodriguez's action thriller, starring Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Cheech Marin, Joaquin de Almeida, Steve Buscemi and Quentin Tarantino. (1995)



Cool Runnings, Monday, BBC1, 1.55pm

WEDNESDAY

Resident Evil: Extinction, Channel 5, 10pm

Zombie-fighting heroine Alice comes out of hiding to protect a group of refugees in a post-apocalyptic wasteland overrun by the walking dead. Meanwhile, the sinister corporation that created the zombie virus is about to embark on its most dangerous experiment yet. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Milla Jovovich. (2007)

THURSDAY

Bad Boys, Channel 5, 9pm

Detectives Mike Lowrey and Marcus Burnett search for a \$100million heroin consignment brazenly stolen by a French drug kingpin from the police evidence room. However, after a mix-up over a phone call from a potential witness, each cop has to assume the other's identity. Thriller, starring Will Smith. (1995)

FRIDAY

Death Race, Channel 5, 9pm

Jensen Ames is framed for the murder of his wife and sent to Terminal Island Prison, a facility that broadcasts the highly profitable Death Race, a high-octane event where convicts battle to the death in customised cars. When a popular driver dies, crooked prison warden Hennessey persuades Ames to take his place, claiming he will be released if he is victorious. Jason Statham stars. (2008)

He's the Starman, a real Space Oddity and one of our Heroes. He's also known as David Robert Jones, the Brighton boy who grew up to be one of the most influential music artists of all time.

Of course, we all know him best as David Bowie, a change of moniker forced on him by the fact that in the early days of his career, Davy Jones was making a name for himself as a member of The Monkees.

Even if you're not a fan of his music, you've got to admire the way in which Bowie has continually managed to reinvent himself, and not so much moved with the times, as stayed ahead of them.

For years he kept out of the spotlight, then surprised everybody by announcing the release of The Next Day, his first studio album for 10 years, on his 60th birthday.

He's kept quiet about it ever since, apart from revealing he will never do another interview, preferring instead to let the music do the talking; if anything, his silence has also

helped to generate interest in him and his work.

The Next Day has been a massive success, with the public intrigued by what he might have in store. And with it's a good album, even the most ardent Bowie fan would probably admit that it isn't as impressive as the offerings he gave the world during his most productive period, which lasted through the 1970s to the early 1980s.

This period continues to be seen as the most important of his career to date, and five separate years of that time are looked at in-depth in this new documentary.

Its makers have decided that 1971, 1975, 1977, 1980 and 1983 are when Bowie was at the peak of his powers, and it's hard to disagree with them.

The programme will look at Ziggy Stardust, the decision to adopt a soul sound for Young Americans, his Thin White Duke persona, time in Berlin, and the later Scary Monsters (and Super Creeps), and Let's Dance albums.

We've promised previously unseen archive footage and interviews with collaborators too.

"David Bowie is one of the most important and iconic music stars of the past 50 years," says Jan Younghusband, the BBC's Commissioning Editor, Music & Events. "His impact on the music industry around the globe is exceptional. The never-before-seen footage in this programme will provide a fascinating insight into the world of this very private person."

Francis Whately, director, adds: "This is a project that has been in development for more than a decade, in fact since Bowie and I worked together in 2001 on a film for the BBC Omnibus strand. This year, 2013, is shaping up to be the year of David Bowie, and now is the perfect moment for this feature-length film devoted to this extraordinary artist."

Extraordinary indeed. Fifty years after he recorded his first demo, and after so many ch-ch-ch-changes to his image, Bowie is, as his song Fame states, too cool to fool.



David Bowie – Five Years, Saturday, BBC2, 9.20pm

Pick of the Week

MONDAY

Britain's Got Talent

ITV, 7.30pm

Every year this series shines the spotlight on some hilarious acts, and impressionist Philip Green is one of them. The 21-year-old comedian got a unanimous four yeses to take him through to the semi-finals. Of course it's anyone's guess who will have made it through to this stage of the finals, but as we all know, you don't need to win BGT to land a career, as Susan Boyle proved a few years ago. What we can tell you is that Ant and Dec will be in their best attire as judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams give their verdict on the night's returning acts.

The Queen: A Passion for Horses

BBC1, 9pm

It's no secret that the Queen loves horses. She's been photographed and filmed at numerous events over the years, and even has her own racehorses. But just how hands-on is she when it comes to her equine friends? The BBC has found the perfect person to find that out – national treasure Clare Balding, whose grandfather, father and brother have all trained the Queen's horses, which gives her a unique insight into Her Majesty's stable. This documentary charts the course of one spring season, from the births of foals at Sandringham to the thrill of race day at Newbury. Princess Anne and Zara Phillips, who are following in her footsteps (or should that be hoofsteps?), also discuss their esteemed relative's dedication to her four-legged friends.

TUESDAY

The Apprentice

BBC1, 9pm

Our economy might be struggling following a series of recessions, however one rule of business is thus: go where the money is. That's exactly what the candidates do this week, as they're bundled onto an early morning plane for a business trip to Dubai. It's in the oil-rich Emirate city that this series' scavenger hunt takes place, as the teams are challenged to track down items for a hotel. While one team hopes to capitalise on a bit of local expertise by scouring the markets, another heads straight to a shopping centre.

WEDNESDAY

The Iraq War

BBC2, 9pm

Without doubt the most contentious decisions made by Tony Blair and George W Bush during their time in office were in regard to the war in Iraq. For the first time, key decision-makers on both sides of the conflict, including Tony Blair and members of Saddam's regime discuss their roles... and their regrets. The first of three episodes concentrates on the build-up to the war, as the politicians involved recall the circumstances that made conflict inevitable, and attempt to refute some of the myths and speculation that have come to surround a war that is doomed to be forever shrouded in controversy.

Frankie

BBC1, 9pm

Frankie is determined to get her life in order, beginning with her home. She gives it a fresh lick of paint, changes the locks and throws away the last of Ian's stuff. However, just when one section of her life appears to be nearing some form of normality, her work life hits a crisis as the circumstances of Liana Corden's death begin to be investigated meaning she needs her team's support more than ever, but this doesn't materialise from Dr Evans who continues to try and bring her down, using another patient as ammunition.

THURSDAY

Die Hard: The True Story

Channel 5, 7pm

In 1988, action thriller Die Hard became one of the biggest hits of the year. It helped transform Bruce Willis from charming TV regular into an A-list movie star, and created a template which has been slavishly adhered to ever since in films such as Under Siege, and more recently, the dreadful White House-centric Olympus Has Fallen. It spawned four sequels, including the hi-tech, rather enjoyable Die Hard 4.0, which saw John McClane joining forces

with a technological whiz-kid who tackled a warped IT expert trying to bring down America's computer systems. This show examines how likely large-scale cyber terrorism is.

Britain's Stone Age Tsunami

Channel 4, 8pm

It might upset some to know this, but 8000 years ago Britain was literally attached to the continent by a land mass the size of Germany. In 6000BC Doggerland was washed into the sea by a raging tsunami. What remains is a shallow area of the North Sea now known as Dogger Bank. Using modern digital technology, Tony Robinson and a team of archaeologists are able to take a virtual journey through this vanished landscape.

FRIDAY

Sarah Millican: Thoroughly Modern Millican Live

Channel 4, 9pm

Sarah Millican left many critics rolling in the aisles when she seized victory at the Edinburgh Fringe a few years ago. She soon gave Vicki Flanagan a run for her money as one of UK TV's most ubiquitous guests, so there was little surprise when Beeb bosses finally gave Ms M her own show. If you shelled out a tenner or more for the DVD of her stand-up performance at London's Hammersmith Apollo during her 2012 UK tour, then you may want to give this free version a wide berth. Everyone else: settle back and enjoy the omnipresent funnywoman reflects on the wonders of making a home-made treadmill, the reasons for carrying spare pants and the practicalities of an orgy.

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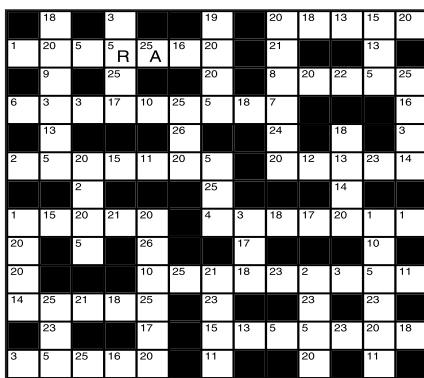
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Puzzler**Brain Gym**

No.222

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	V	Q	A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	D	L	C	Y	S	B	U	T	Z	H	J	G	F	

Special Father's Day offer 30% OffWith code: FATH30 on-line only at: www.goodnightsnoring.com**Double Crossword**

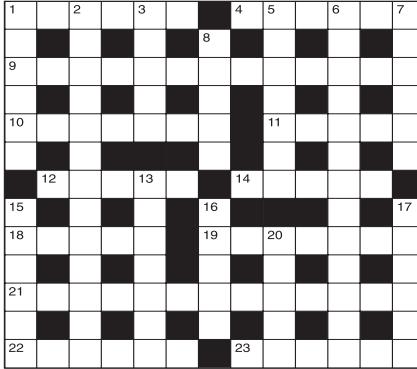
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

1. Make an impression? (6)
4. He knows where to draw the line (6)
9. With which one suffers a lack of balance (4,9)
10. Take action to stop weakening the spirit? (3,4)
11. Make a change in special terms (5)
12. Soundly ridiculed a conductor (5)
14. Belief one can always go back on? (5)
18. Bring up the question of more pay? (5)
19. Hoping to benefit from a reduction in the fare (2,1,4)
21. As a matador may be? (7,2,4)
22. An odd desire to live (6)
23. His parents will be late (6)

Down

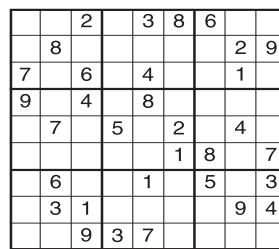
1. Do some relief work? (6)
2. Suspicious affair the comedian is involved in? (5,8)
3. Fate embraced by small church cleric (5)
5. A sign of confusion (3,4)
6. At home finally, seeking a place (2,2,3,6)
7. Private coaches? (6)
8. Period of youth which may be tense (5)
13. In line with the drill sergeant's instructions (7)
15. He wants a good deal (6)
16. Tied up money? (5)
17. Taken unawares? (6)
20. The morning belongs to us for an intrigue (5)

**Quick Clues:****Across**

1. Mend (6)
4. Mission (6)
9. In order of time (13)
10. Ruler (7)
11. Extremity (5)
12. Range (5)
14. Brush (5)
18. Suffer (5)
19. Glowing (7)
21. Articulation (13)
22. Hark! (6)
23. Drive home (6)

Down

1. Affluence (6)
2. Clear-sighted (13)
3. Interior (5)
5. Normal (7)
6. Lodgings (13)
7. Water down (6)
8. Kudos (5)
13. Scent (7)
15. Scatter (6)
16. Pamphlet (5)
17. Offensive odour (6)
20. Slow speech (5)

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	3	8	9	7	2	1	4	6
2	4	9	6	3	1	5	7	8
1	7	6	4	8	5	2	3	9
6	8	4	5	2	9	7	1	3
7	9	5	3	4	6	8	2	1
3	2	7	4	3	9	6	5	8
4	1	2	8	9	6	3	7	5
9	6	3	1	5	7	8	2	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC: Aerops; 1 Floodlit game; 7 Steep; 8 Noose; 9 Tea; 10 Turquoise; 11 Exempt; 12 In debt; 15 Two-seater; 17 Hie; 18 Rotor; 19 Heels; 21 Poltergeists. Down: 1 From the start; 2 Die; 3 Import; 4 Gun-runner; 5 Maori; 6 Nevertheless; 7 Spare; 10 Top secret; 13 Ethos; 14 Etcher; 16 Outdo; 20 Evar. QUICK - Across: 1 Reminiscence; 7 Drear; 8 Incur; 9 Eve; 10 Sacrif; 11 Assent; 12 Tam; 15 Elucidate; 17 Ash; 18 Round; 19 Abut; 20 Nostalgia; 21 Horse-horn. Down: 1 Rio-de-Janeiro; 2 Neer; 3 Strike; 4 Eliminate; 5 Cache; 6 Free of charge; 7 Drift; 10 Sentiment; 13 Inane; 14 Vacate; 16 Usual; 20 Ugh.



"Don't know how it works but it does, it's amazing"
Simon B

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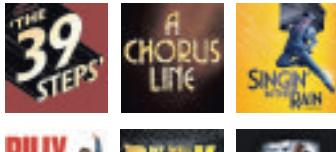
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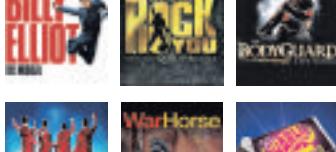


Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £129.95

Dine and Dance from £139.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.



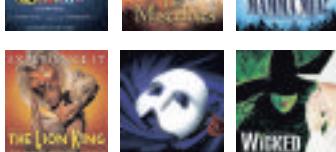
Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days



Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £139.95

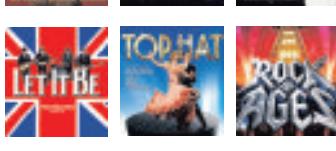
Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.



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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Ample off-road parking at this five-bed semi-detached home

DESCRIBED as beautifully appointed, this five-bedroom semi-detached home on the fashionable Northway estate in Sedgley is on the market priced at £181,950.

The property in Eversley Grove offers excellent living accommodation briefly comprising of reception porch, guest cloakroom, lounge, open plan dining kitchen, playroom, separate sitting room, utility room, five bedrooms and bathroom as well as benefitting from uPVC double glazing and gas central heating and rear garden.

On the ground floor the cloakroom has a WC and wash hand basin and the lounge – 15ft 3in by 13ft 6in – has a door to the dining kitchen.

Stainless

The kitchen area, 13ft by 8ft 4in, has a range of wall and base units, stainless steel sink with mixer tap, round edge worksurfaces, integrated appliances including oven, hob and extractor hood, and space for additional domestic appliances while the dining area measuring 12ft 7in by 7ft 3in has a base and wall unit, work surface and French door to the rear garden.

The playroom, 14ft 1in by 6ft 10in has a French door to the rear garden, while the utility room has space for domestic appliances.

On the first floor are five bedrooms and bathroom with white suite of P-shaped bath with shower and screen, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

Outside the property stands behind a neatly presented front garden and is approached over a block paved driveway with parking for a number of cars.

The rear garden has a patio with lawned area, with the original garage converted into a storage area and separate gym/office with worksurface and sink unit.

Call Roden Boydell on 01902 881188 for more details.



This semi in Sedgley has five bedrooms and plenty of space on its block paved driveway



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Property

Five-bedrooms in detached home



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The house in Lloyd Hill has an impressive open-plan, live-in kitchen with oak

style flooring leading into the fitted kitchen area and patio doors from the dining area to the rear garden. There is a lounge with fire surround, guest WC, through hall, separate utility, integral garage, a magnificent master bedroom suite with fitted dressing room and en suite, together with four

further bedrooms and three bathrooms. Lloyd Hill is on the South Staffordshire border; some four miles from the city centre with local shops, choice of schools nearby and good public transport services.

Visit www.berrimaneaton.co.uk for further details or call 01902 326366 to view.



One of the three bathrooms in the house – fitted with chrome ladder radiator, WC, sink and panel bath



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UPPER GORNAL/SEDGLEY



Dudley Road

An EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, freehold, gas radiator centrally heated & upVC double glazed detached family home within reasonable walking distance of so many amenities. Providing significant potential, the accommodation includes entrance vestibule, fitted cloakroom & further cloaks cupboard, superb 25' through living/dining room (with possibilities of subdivision?), kitchen, pantry, lobby. **FOUR BEDROOMS** (three with wardrobes), bathroom, garage, level gardens. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £175,000

KINGSWINFORD



Barnett Close

Superbly located for the area's highly regarded local schooling, this **BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME** is a modern, corner cul de sac setting, set back from Barnet Lane, offering **SPACIOUS AND MOST ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED** accommodation, comprising: Reception Hall, spacious Lounge, beautifully refitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room with integrated oven and hob, THREE BEDROOMS, attractively refitted Bathroom, **GAS CENTRAL HEATING** and **UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING**. Having a **GOOD SIZED BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY** to the fore, with approach to the GARAGE (with OFFICE / PLAYROOM over) and enjoying a large, attractively laid out and pleasantly secluded Rear Garden. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£159,950

HOLLY HALL



131 Kingswinford Road



Commanding an elevated position upon a very generous corner plot, with beautifully maintained fore garden and long sweeping **TARMAC DRIVEWAY** with approach to the **GARAGE**, this **TRADITIONAL BAY FRONTED DETACHED FAMILY HOME** is well placed for local amenities within this popular and established location and **REQUIRES UPDATING** but provides **FANTASTIC POTENTIAL** to enhance the **SPACIOUS** accommodation, comprising: Reception Hall, Inner Hall, spacious Lounge with Dining Area and walk-in bay, fitted Kitchen, Study, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, Bath room with separate shower, **GAS CENTRAL HEATING** and **DOUBLE GLAZING**. With **USEFUL SIDE AREA** and a tiered and pleasantly laid out rear garden with patios, lawns and shrubs. EPC Rating F. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £155,950

UPPER GORNAL/SEDGLEY



Moden Hill

A gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached cottage of considerable character that has been carefully renovated and modernised in recent years to an exemplary standard retaining much original so called character features. Accommodation includes glazed porch, living room (original inglenook recess with wood burner), dining room, superbly styled kitchen with numerous units, various integrated appliances and potential laundry/study beyond. Open tread staircase to first floor with transverse principal bedroom, bathroom and a further winding staircase up to dormer double bedroom. Two PARKING SPACES AND VANT VIEWS. Off road parking to front and neat secured rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £150,000

CRADLEY HEATH



Vine Gardens

A well presented two bed roomed detached bungalow well positioned for local shops and public transport links, having double glazing and gas central heating. Comprising: L-shaped entrance hall, useful storage cupboard, reception room, kitchen, fantastically fitted shower room, two bedrooms, well presented rear garden, fore garden to frontage, garage and off road parking. EPC Rating D HALESOWEN OFFICE

Offers Around £147,950

LANESFIELD



Rookery Road

A tremendously modernised, freehold, gas centrally heated & combi boiler, double glazed detached by garage with further potential situated in an exceptionally convenient established neighbourhood. Accommodation provides entrance porch, traditional reception hall, two double bedrooms, sitting room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units, modern integrated appliances, refitted bathroom with shower, plus a large, well contemporary suite with chrome detailing. Off road parking (kerb dropped) & tremendous further potential. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £139,950

WORDSLEY



Brooklands

This DISTINCTIVE AND BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED END TOWNHOUSE is ideally placed within this popular and established location and offers **IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS** and **ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED** accommodation, including **GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING** and comprising: Reception Hall, spacious & attractive full depth Lounge with dining Area and a practical breakfast kitchen. Three **EXCELLENTLY FURNISHED BEDROOMS** and beautifully refitted Bathroom with separate shower. Set back beyond the **BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY** to the fore and enjoying a **LARGE REAR GARDEN** with much potential. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£126,950

BROCKMOOR



High Street

This modern style, Double Glazed, gas centrally heated, Three Bedroom Semi Detached home would now ideally benefit from certain cosmetic improvement / upgrading, yet OFFERS EXCELLENT POTENTIAL. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, refitted Kitchen, Three Good Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front / Rear Gardens, and Parking to Rear. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£119,500

WORDSLEY



Sandfield Road

This really most impressive, comprehensively refurbished, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, two Bedroom Semi-Detached home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The stylish property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, refitted Kitchen, two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with white suite, Block Paved frontage and Rear Garden. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£112,500

NETHERTON



Chichester Avenue

This vast majority uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, Two Bedroom mid Townhouse is immaculately presented throughout, and may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, stylish Lounge, Kitchen, Two Good Bedrooms, Bathroom with white suite, Drive way and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£99,950

DUDLEY



Bridgewater Crescent

This much improved, extended, uPVC Double Glazed, gas centrally heated, Two Bedroom Semi Detached home is well worthy of internal inspection, and may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Enlarged Kitchen / Dining Room, Two Double Bed rooms, Study, Refitted Bathroom with white corner suite, and Rear Garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers in the Region Of £90,000

BRIERLEY HILL



Eastern Avenue

This traditional style, gas centrally heated, Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS or YOUNG FAMILIES, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Through Lounge, Kitchen, Guest WC, Three Bed rooms, Bathroom with white suite, Driveway, and a low maintenance Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£79,950

UPPER GORNAL



The Arcade

This neatly presented, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two bedroom maisonette provides; surprisingly spacious living accommodation, and is conveniently situated for local amenities. The property is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge with white suite, two double bedrooms, and shower room with white suite. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £77,950

DUDLEY



NEW PRICE

An imposing, **SPACIOUS**, freehold, gas centrally heated (recent boiler) & uPVC double glazed detached family residence that has been significantly upgraded over the years retaining a number of period features set in favoured cul de sac just off The Broadway. Magnificent accommodation includes reception hall (8'7" ceiling height), cloaks cupboard, separate dining room, through 18'6" sitting room with bay & open fireplace, upgraded breakfast kitchen, pantry, outer lobby, utility room, separate w.c. **FOUR BEDROOMS**, separate toilet, recently reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with contemporary style white suite, garage, delightful gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £265,000, NOW £255,000

Priory Close



BEARWOOD**129 Poplar Road****0121 434 4345****HALESOWEN****21 Hagley Road****0121 550 3978****SEDGLEY****2A Dudley Street****01902 880888****6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS****Southall Crescent**

A particularly spacious, significantly modernised, improved & EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached property situated in a popular convenient location for so many amenities. Accommodation includes entrance porch, imposing reception hall (lofty ceiling heights), THREE BEDROOMS (one with shower room en suite), through lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, through to a brick/pvc double glazed CONSERVATORY, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'IKEA' sourced cream finish units with range, utility room. Staircase up to boarded roof space with Velux skylights & fitted cupboards. Double garage, block paved driveway, further block paved parking, established secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £220,000

**Breamore Crescent, 'Earls Keep'**

An attractive, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed Bryant built detached upon highly favoured development. Accommodation includes upvc double glazed entrance vestibule, inner hallway, lounge, dining room with bay, breakfast kitchen, store, utility, fitted cloakroom. Principal bedroom with 'walk through' wardrobe section & a shower room en suite, two further bedrooms, bathroom, garage, secluded/sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £190,000

**Mason Street**

A highly individual, PARTICULARLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed detached of character (believed to be one of the oldest houses in the neighbourhood) offering tremendous further potential. An accommodation includes entrance porch, inner hallway, deep fitted cloakroom, spacious 21'6" lounge, 21' dining kitchen with upvc double glazed CONSERVATORY beyond. FOUR BEDROOMS, separate toilet, bathroom. Potential car port space, sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £175,000

**Northway**

An absolutely outstanding, significantly improved/EXTENDED freehold, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached presented in exemplary order throughout in favoured district. Meticulously maintained accommodation includes enlarged porch, inner hallway, L-shape through living room (lounge section), open plan kitchen/dining room, separate utility, fitted patio doors, refitted kitchen with 'beach' effect units & many integrated appliances, lobby, fitted cloakroom with white suite, garage, sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £160,000

**Tennyson Road, Straits**

A conscientiously maintained, modernised & improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated, & either uPVC or aluminium double glazed semi detached in favoured district convenient for so many amenities/country park etc. Accommodation includes entrance porch, inner hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, separate w.c. Lengthy DOUBLE 23' GARAGE. Delightful well tended/secluded rear garden, EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Price: £155,000

**Windmill Street**

A PARTICULARLY SPACIOUS, significantly enhanced & successfully EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi-detached in popular residential location. Includes entrance hallway, lounge, recently refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of 'beach' effect units & various integrated appliances (double french doors to garden), pantry, FOUR BEDROOMS (three with 'first quality' range of fitted units), reappointed bathroom with white suite, LARGE GARAGE with utility room beyond & a shower room, neat gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £154,950

**EXTENDED**

MEADOWFIELDS CLOSE
A SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, VERY WELL PRESENTED, THROUGHOUT, MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoying a very pleasant cul de sac setting and offering VERY SPACIOUS accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, inner hall / dining room, spacious L-shaped lounge with dining / study area, extended kitchen/breakfast room in an open-plan style. THREE EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS and attractively refitted shower room. With FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY, GARAGE / STORE and attractively laid out rear garden. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£154,950

**NEW PRICE**

RICHMOND ROAD
A traditional freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed intermediate semi-detached that has been significantly modernised/re-furbished in recent months set in convenient district within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring/associated amenities. Various period features remain (wood stripped floor/fireplaces/picture rails) and the accommodation includes: entrance hall, reception hall, inner hall / dining room, spacious L-shaped lounge with dining / study area, extended kitchen/breakfast room in an open-plan style. THREE EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS and attractively refitted shower room. With FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY, GARAGE / STORE and attractively laid out rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £145,000, NOW £139,950

**£5,000 REDUCTION**

KEYES DRIVE
Very pleasantly and conveniently located within this cul de sac upon the highly respected and extremely sought after Chatterfield's development, this MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers SPACIOUS and GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and uPVC double glazed doors. Three bedrooms, large W.C. spacious lounge with separate dining room area off fitted kitchen, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS and bathroom with corner shower. Set back beyond the front garden, top of Driveway, there is a small area adjacent to the GARAGE and a good sized patio / lawned rear garden which enjoys an OPEN REAR ASPECT. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£139,950

**Mount Pleasant Street**

This beautifully presented, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated mid terrace may be of particular interest to first time buyers and is well worthy of internal inspection. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, rear lobby/veranda, kitchen with a fine range of units/integrated appliances, re-fitted bathroom with white suite, three bedrooms & rear garden, which enjoys an OPEN REAR ASPECT. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

**Elm Green**

OPEN DAY ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY FROM 10.00 AM - 4.00 PM
This uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated semi detached home provides surprisingly spacious living space & may particularly appeal to first time buyers or young families. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance porch, hall, lounge, dining kitchen, CONSERVATORY, utility, guest w.c., three bedrooms, bathroom, attic bedroom 4, block paved driveway & a rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £118,950

**IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY**

BUSEY FIELDS ROAD
This gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi detached home is situated in an established residential location, and may particularly APPEAL TO FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating: E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£115,000

**Birch Road**

BIRCH ROAD
An absolutely outstanding, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi-detached in superb order throughout that has been 'transformed' in recent years. Accommodation provides reception hall, lounge, dining room (with patio doors out to the garden), refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances, through lobby with utility/laundry room off and a separate w.c.. Three bedrooms, reappointed shower room with stylish white suite. Extensive parking to front, sheltered/well tended rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,950

**CLAREMONT ROAD**

CLAREMONT ROAD
A gas centrally heated, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED intermediate terrace of character with various original period features (fireplaces, doors, etc.) excellent situated within walking distance of the village & all associated amenities. Delightful accommodation includes dining room with bay, lobby, sitting, kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, two double bedrooms. Delightful sheltered rear garden & substantial concrete panel WORKROOM/STORE (flight & power & rear pedestrian access). EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

**New Street**

A tremendously modernised, enhanced & well insulated, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED traditional terrace within walking distance of the village & all associated amenities. Delightful accommodation includes sitting room, kitchen, uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, two generous bedrooms, bathroom with white suite & shower, sheltered/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £105,000

**Hinchliffe Avenue**

An EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, and double glazed (part uPVC/part aluminium casements) semi detached with rare advantage of additional gated side space offering potential. Accommodation includes: hall, storage cupboard, refitted kitchen, extended 18'8" living/dining room, three bedrooms, reappointed shower room (former bathroom) with stylish white suite. Garage, parking, garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £102,000

**Boundary Hill**

BOUNDRY HILL
This traditional style, gas centrally heated semi detached home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and may be an ideal first time purchase. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, guest w.c., through lounge, kitchen with a fine range of units, three bedrooms, bathroom & rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating: E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers in the region of £99,950

**THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED**

COOPER AVENUE
Forming part of this now established address, this THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED AND WELL ARRANGED, TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME displays a most deceptive style and affords an arrangement of accommodation with both GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. To briefly comprise: hall, lovely sitting room, modern kitchen, two good sized set floors, bedrooms and bathroom. Ample drive frontage and enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating: E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£87,950

**Thistle Close**

50% SHARE FOR SALE. A stylish, significantly enhanced & improved, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached in short cul de sac section, a gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular/convenient district. Vendor's 50% share available for sale (subject to a right of first refusal by the Association who charge a fair market rental) accommodation includes entrance hall, superb lounge, with box bay & 'beech' effect feature overmantel/transverse dining kitchen with integrated oven, hob & filter, THREE BEDROOMS, reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite. Contemporary style suite, parking, delightful secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

OFFERS AROUND £79,950 FOR 50% SHARE.

**Ednbridge View, Milking Bank Area**

50% SHARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE. Envably situated at head of cul de sac section, a gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular district within walking distance of so many amenities. Vendor's 50% share available for sale (other 50% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rental) with accommodation providing entrance hallway, lounge, transverse dining room, modern kitchen, two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite & shower, sheltered/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: E. C.SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

PRICE £63,750 FOR VENDOR'S 50% SHARE.

Taylors

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

connells.co.uk

Dudley

Deepdale Lane Lower Gornal

£250,000

This beautiful detached bungalow offers spacious living accommodation benefits large lounge, balcony with views, sun room, double garage. Viewing highly recommended.

Brookes Close Tividale

£155,000

A modern family home comprises hall, cloakroom, two reception rooms, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms. Energy rating D

Red Lion Close, Tividale Tividale

Offers over £120,000

This well presented semi-detached home benefits from landscaped garden, spacious conservatory and re-fitted shower room. Ideal first time buyers purchase. Energy rating TBC

Pebworth Grove Dudley

£95,000

An ideal first time purchase this semi detached property offers two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, garage and low maintenance garden. Must be viewed. Energy rating D.

Churchfield Street Dudley

£64,950

A three bedroom mid terrace, comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, gardens to the rear, double glazing as specified. Energy rating G.

St Micheals Grove Dudley

Offers over £190,000

A traditional family home set in cul-de-sac location, comprises, hallway, lounge, extended kitchen, conservatory, playroom, w.c., three bedrooms and bathroom. Energy rating TBC

Bilston Street Sedgley

£189,950

A four bedroom detached property. Must be viewed to appreciate the potential and spacious accommodation of this home. Energy rating F

Birmingham New Road Coseley

£160,000

This unique ex Police House semi detached property benefits from three bedrooms, two reception rooms and conservatory, beautiful rear garden. Must be viewed. Energy rating D

Dudley Dibdale Road

£149,950

A traditional semi detached property, briefly comprises two reception rooms, extended kitchen, three bedrooms and shower room, basement/utility room, garage. Energy rating D

Furlongs Road Sedgley

£149,950

THIS PROPERTY MUST BE VIEWED. A refurbished and immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached property. Energy rating D

Birnham Close Foxyards

£134,950

An immaculately presented 3bedroom extended semi detached property located on the popular Foxyards Estate, cul-de-sac location. Ideal family Home. Energy Rating D

Summerhill Road Coseley

£114,950

A well presented three bedroom end of terrace, benefits from conservatory, through lounge, rear garden. Viewing highly recommended. Ideal first time buyers purchase. Energy rating D.

Summerfield Road Dudley

£109,950

Having its own private front entrance this two bedroom immaculately presented ground floor apartment offers modern living accommodation. Must Be Viewed. Energy rating C.

Corbyn Road Russells Hall

£99,950

This well presented semi detached property benefits from through lounge, kitchen, landscaped garden, two good size bedrooms, bathroom. Energy rating D.

Friars Gate Dudley

£84,995

The Finchley Plot 256 A brand new 2 bed coach home, with fitted kitchen and parking space this is an ideal first time purchase.

Woodall Grange Dudley

£97,496

The York , Beautiful brand new two bedroom home by Taylor Wimpey. Call Connells for further details. Price shown is with help to buy scheme.

Quarry Brow Upper Gornal

£71,950

A two bedroom semi detached property in need of refurbishment, property comprises lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom, foregarden, rear garden. Energy rating D.

Tansey Green Road Kingswinford

£32,950

The Pensnett. A brand new two bedroom home offered on a 25-75% ownership share, with fitted kitchen and NHBC guarantee. Price shown is for 25% share.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £70,000 for 49 Quarry Brow, Dudley DY3 1UD. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Connells 485 Stone Street, Dudley DY1 1NS. Tel 01384 214770 before exchange of contracts.

PUBLIC NOTICE



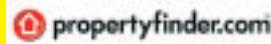
Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £167,500 for 6 Mansion Close, Dudley DY1 2GY. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Connells 485 Stone Street, Dudley DY1 1NS. Tel 01384 214770 before exchange of contracts.



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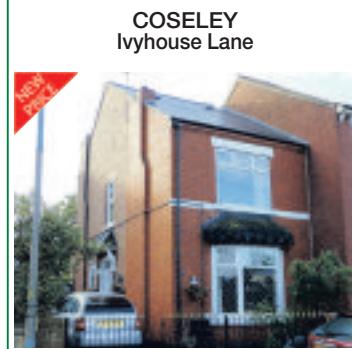
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right doors**

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Dudley,
West Midlands, DY1 1DB**

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COSELEY
Ivyhouse Lane



TIVIDALE
Elm Terrace



COSELEY
Cherrywood Close



TIPTON
Holcroft Street

SSTC
IN ONE WEEK

Two bedroom end
terraced house
with driveway and
a large garden to
the rear
£84,950



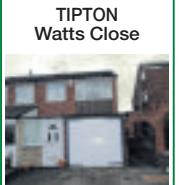
TIVIDALE
Tower Road



DUDLEY
Ernest Road



NETHERTON
Crescent Road



TIPTON
Watts Close

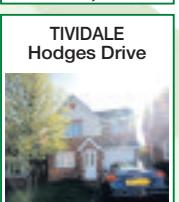
A well presented two
bedroom semi
detached house with
lounge, dining room,
kitchen, driveway,
garage and gardens to
the rear
£109,950



BRADLEY
Wesley Street



NETHERTON
Cradley Road



TIVIDALE
Hodges Drive

A three bedroom
detached house with
lounge, kitchen, dining
area, downstairs wc,
en-suite to master bedroom,
driveway, garage and
gardens to the front and
rear
£169,950



DUDLEY
Priory Road



DUDLEY
Russell Street

A two bedroom traditional
mid terraced house with
lounge, dining room,
kitchen, upstairs bathroom,
two double bedrooms (one
bedroom currently split into
two rooms) and garden to
the rear
£82,500



DUDLEY
Westminster Close



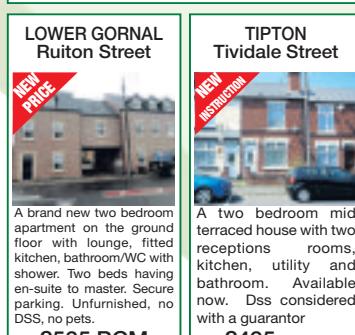
DUDLEY
Wrens Nest Road

A 3 bed semi detached house,
comprising reception,
bathroom with shower over,
wc, three bedrooms, garden to
rear, secure parking.
Unfurnished, available to view
now. Housing benefits
considered with guarantor and
good references.
£550 PCM



TIPTON
Upper Church Lane

A one bedroom ground
floor flat with lounge,
kitchen, bathroom, ch &
dg.
Available now. Dss
considered with a
guarantor
£350 pcm



DUDLEY
Queens Cross



DUDLEY
Trindle Road

A one bedroom first
floor apartment with
lounge, fitted kitchen and
double bedroom,
bathroom with walk in
shower. Available to
view now
£395 pcm

£350 pcm

£525 PCM

£495 pcm

£450 PCM

£425 PCM

£350 pcm

£350 pcm

K. Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 18th JUNE 2013

Nos 183, 185 & 187 GOLDSHORN HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Terrace of three spacious houses, three bedrooms, two receptions, cellars, garages and gardens - for modernisation - to be offered as one Lot

Guide: £230,000/£240,000

VIEWING - FRIDAY 24TH MAY @ 11.15 am
(torch needed - please bring your own)

Nos 14A-14D, UPPER LICHFIELD ST., WILLENHALL

In the heart of the town, four recently built Apartments all now let on AST's - advised currently producing £19,800 p.a.x., Guide £150,000/£170,000

VIEWING - FRIDAY 24TH MAY @ 9.30 am

130 WOOD ROAD, CODSALL

Modern Ground Floor Apartment (in block of four), lovely outlook towards open fields, hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, white bathroom, garage - Leasehold, 105 years remaining. Guide: £68,000/£73,000

VIEWING - FRIDAY 24TH MAY @ 1.15 pm

125 JEFFCOCK ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Large Victorian Detached, Gas CH, hall, two reception, breakfast room, kitchen, three bedrooms, white bathroom, large outside store, garden.

Guide: £90,000/£100,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY 24th MAY @ 12.00 NOON

163 LINTHOUSE LANE, WEDNESFIELD

Looking out towards open fields, modern Detached, extended accommodation, two large reception, kitchen, two double bedrooms, bathroom, car port and large BUILDING PLOT with Planning Permission.

Guide: £163,000/£168,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY 24th MAY @ 9.45 am

3 CURZON STREET, BLAKENHALL

Spacious Mid Terraced in popular district, full refurb needed, two reception, kitchen and bathroom areas, three bedrooms, wash room, long rear garden.

Guide: £57,000/£62,000

VIEWING - FRIDAY 24TH MAY @ 10.30 am
(torch needed - please bring your own)

25 ASHLEY STREET, BILSTON

Mid Terraced, open outlook, big accommodation, Gas CH, two reception, kitchen wc, three bedrooms, huge bathroom, gardens.

Guide: £54,000/£59,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY 24th MAY @ 10.30 am

5 SUMMERFIELD ROAD, WEST PARK

Close to Park, Period Semi, offering dignified accommodation, two large reception, breakfast room, kitchen, cellar, fine landing, five bedrooms, boxroom, bathroom, attractive garden, stores, garage and vehicular access at rear.

Guide: £170,000/£180,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY 24th MAY @ 1.00 pm

1 CODSALL ROAD, TETTENHALL

Well located modernised Detached with smart interior, Gas CH, upvc windows, two reception, three bedrooms, modern kitchen and bathroom, garage, gardens.

Guide: £175,000/£180,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY 24th MAY @ 12.30 pm

18 WINDSOR ROAD, PARKFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON

Conveniently located, smartly presented and spacious Detached residence with double glazing and Gas CH, fitted cloaks, two reception, large kitchen, laundry, three bedrooms, bathroom, off-road parking.

Guide: £60,000/£65,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY 24th MAY @ 11.15 am

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

(subject to Conditions and prior sale) on **TUESDAY 18th JUNE 2013 @ 6.30 PM** at the Ramada Park Hall Hotel, Park Drive, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton WV4 5AJ

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK
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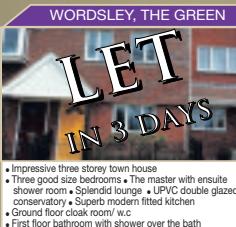


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NEW
30 CASWELL ROAD £215,000
SEDGLEY
●Flexible three bedroom accommodation
●Sought after locality
●Gas central heating & majority double glazing
●Ample parking & private rear garden



NEW
28 SUNNINGDALE ROAD, SEDGLEY £214,500
●Link detached house with three bedrooms
●Extended & improved good sized accommodation
●L shaped lounge & separate dining room
●Shower room and separate WC
●SEDGLEY OFFICE



REDUCED
NO UPWARD CHAIN
55 CHARLECOTE DRIVE £189,950
SEDGLEY
●Modern detached house
●Good sized four bedroom accommodation
●Breakfast kitchen & utility room
●Ensuite shower room, two garages
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



NO UPWARD CHAIN
75 BATH STREET O/O £185,000
SEDGLEY
●Extended detached family home
●Three bedrooms, three reception rooms
●Breakfast kitchen
●Large garden plot
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



NO UPWARD CHAIN
29 CEDARWOOD ROAD, LOWER GORNAL £174,950
●Well maintained & improved link detached bungalow
●Deceptive accommodation with two bedrooms
●L shaped lounge & dining room
●Gas central heating & double glazing
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



51C SANDSTONE CLOSE £154,950
LOWER GORNAL
●Semi detached two bedroom bungalow
●Improved & modernised
●Conservatory, shower room
●Ample off road parking
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C



73 OLD PARK ROAD £149,950
DUDLEY
●Extended semi detached house
●Three bedrooms
●Large kitchen, conservatory
●Utility room, shower room
●DUDLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



FLAT 5 REGENCY COURT £149,950
DUDLEY
●Modern first floor flat
●Two bedrooms, ensuite shower room
●Landscaped communal grounds
●Gated entrance
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C

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NO UPWARD CHAIN
32 DREADNAUGHT ROAD £139,950
BRIERLEY HILL
●Modern detached house
●Three bedrooms, utility room
●Well proportioned accommodation
●Private rear garden
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING F



NO UPWARD CHAIN
7 SOUTHERNDOWN ROAD, SEDGLEY O/IRO £135,000
●Semi detached bungalow on the popular Brownswall estate
●One bedroom (originally two)
●Through living room & dining room, sun lounge
●Attractively landscaped rear garden
●SEDGLEY OFFICE



281 WRENS NEST ROAD £134,950
WOODSETTON
●Spacious modern three storey house
●Three bedrooms
●Well presented throughout
●Two car parking spaces at rear
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C



102 EARL STREET £124,950
COELEY
●Semi detached house
●Three bedrooms
●Well maintained & improved
●Conservatory
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C



76 BRADLEYS LANE O/A £124,950
COELEY
●Traditional semi detached
●Three bedrooms
●Extended lounge & kitchen
●Ideal for first time buyers
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C



75% SHARED OWNERSHIP
45 NEWLANDS CLOSE £119,950
HAGLEY
●Spacious modern second floor apartment
●Two bedrooms, lounge/dining room
●Allocated parking space
●Communal lawned gardens
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C



33 KINGS ROAD £118,950
SEDGLEY
●Considerably improved mid terraced house
●Two bedrooms
●Well presented accommodation
●Gas centrally heated & double glazed
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



80 CENTRAL DRIVE O/A £108,500
LOWER GORNAL
●Well maintained terraced house
●Three bedrooms
●Two reception rooms
●Gas central heating & double glazing
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

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YOUR MOVE



S.S.T.C.

LANGSTONE ROAD

●An Extended Semi Detached Two Bedrooms Extended Kitchen Extended Dining Room Lounge Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing Where Stated Garage Driveway DUDLEY 01384 455000



Reduced

MILTON RD

●EPC D An Improved Three Bedroom Property Lounge Fitted Kitchen Diner Refitted Bathroom Driveway Parking Double Glazing Where Stated Gas Central Heating System Garden DUDLEY 01384 455000



Reduced

LOVETT AVENUE

Three Bedroom Semi Detached Kitchen Verandah First Floor Bathroom Rear Garden No Upward Chain DUDLEY 01384 455000



Reduced

WHITEHALL DRIVE

●Three Bedroom Semi Detached Residence Two Reception Rooms Fitted Kitchen First Floor Bathroom Having White Suite Double Glazing Where Stated Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing Where Stated DUDLEY 01384 455000



Reduced

ANDERSLEIGH DRIVE

●EPC Rating E Modern End Townhouse Two Bedrooms Lounge Kitchen Bathroom Double Glazing Where Stated Parking Rear Garden DUDLEY 01384 455000



S.S.T.C.

BENNETTS HILL

●End Terraced Residence Two Bedrooms Two Reception Rooms Breakfast Room Kitchen Ground Floor Bathroom Utility Double Glazing Where Stated Gas Central Heating System Rear Garden No Chain DUDLEY 01384 455000



Reduced

EAST STREET

●Detached Bungalow Two Double Bedrooms Lounge Kitchen Double Glazing Where Stated Gas Central Heating System Garage Driveway No Chain DUDLEY 01384 455000



New

THE BROADWAY

We are pleased to market this improved and extended double glazed and gas central heated bay fronted three bedroom semi detached property comprising to the ground floor of entrance hall, dining room, lounge, extended kitchen, lobby DUDLEY 01384 455000



Reduced

NETHERTON

●EPC D An Improved Semi Detached Property Three Bedrooms Lounge & Dining Room Conservatory Double Glazing Where Stated Gas Central Heating System Block Paved Driveway DUDLEY 01384 455000



Reduced

TIPTON

●An Improved End Terraced Three Bedrooms Lounge Kitchen Bathroom Upstairs Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing Where Stated DUDLEY 01384 455000



New

OAKHAM AVENUE

●EPC Ratings Awaited An Improved & Extended Semi Detached Three Bedrooms Lounge Extended Kitchen Dining Room Conservatory Double Glazing Where Stated Gas Central Heating System Garage Rear Garden Viewing DUDLEY 01384 455000



New

WEAVERS RISE

●EPC Ratings Awaited Two Bedroom Mid Terrace House Lounge Fitted Kitchen Bathroom Upstairs Front and Rear Garden Garage To The Rear DUDLEY 01384 455000



S.S.T.C.

FRENCH ROAD

●EPC Ratings Awaited Three Bedrooms Lounge Fitted Kitchen Diner Ground Floor Cloakroom Double Glazing Where Stated Gas Central Heating System Drive No Chair DUDLEY 01384 455000



New

GADS GREEN CRESCENT

Three Bedroom Semi Detached With Garage We are pleased to market this three bedroom semi detached property comprising to the ground floor of entrance hall, through lounge, breakfast/dining area and kitchen. To the first DUDLEY 01384 455000



New

ROWLEY REGIS

Offers Over



Reduced

DUDLEY

●EPC Ratings Awaited An Improved Semi Detached Three Bedrooms Lounge Kitchen Diner Bathroom Double Glazing Where Stated Gas Central Heating System Double Glazed Where Stated Having L & Decking No Chain DUDLEY 01384 455000



New

ROWLEY REGIS

£125,000



S.S.T.C.

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

●Detached Residence Three Bedrooms Lounge Dining Room Extended Fitted Kitchen Breakfast Room Utility Room Ground Floor Cloakroom Double Glazing Where Stated Gas Central Heating System Drive Way To The Rear Gated Via Kerb Gated Via Kerb DUDLEY 01384 455000

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Parkdale, SEDGELEY

- Spectacular Villa style terraced house
- Four storey, four bedrooms
- Two receptions, kitchen, utility
- Cellar, garden, period features
- NOT TO BE MISSED! EPC=E

Offers Around £218,000



Stourbridge Road, BRIERLEY HILL

- GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- Well presented, GCH, DG.
- One large bedroom, lounge
- Communal gardens to rear
- Communal parking and drying area
- NO CHAIN. EPC=C

Offers Around £64,950



Newick Street, NETHERTON

- Spacious Detached House
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Large through lounge/dining room
- Extended L-shaped kitchen
- 3 car driveway
- EPC = D, Reduced by £5,000

£164,950



NEW PRICE Vicarage Prospect, DUDLEY

- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- QUAIN TERRACED HOME
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- TWO BEDROOMS
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- REAR GARDEN, EPC=F

£75,000



Bird Street, LOWER GORNAL

- Traditional Mid-terraced house
- Well presented and neutral decor
- Two reception rooms, kitchen and bathroom
- THREE BEDROOMS
- EPC=D
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers Around £95,000



Kenelm Road, COSELEY

- Period semi-detached house
- Cul-de-sac close to train station
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Driveway and an enclosed rear garden
- NO UPWARD CHAIN, EPC=E

Offers Around £99,950



Racemeadow Crescent, DUDLEY WOOD

- Modern detached corner house
- Three bedrooms and an en-suite
- Two reception rooms, kitchen and W.C.
- Gardens front and rear, Garage
- NO UPWARDS CHAIN, EPC=C

£179,950



Scotts Green Close, DUDLEY

- Bespoke Detached House
- In need of some updating
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Two reception rooms, breakfast kitchen
- NO CHAIN, EPC=E

Offers Around £155,000



Norman Street, DUDLEY

- VIEWS OVER BUFFERY PARK
- Mid terraced house
- Modern shaker style kitchen
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Two double bedrooms, bathroom
- NO UPWARD CHAIN, EPC=E

£82,950



NEW PRICE Geston Road, RUSSELLS HALL, DUDLEY

- Extended semi-detached house
- THREE reception rooms
- Conservatory, extended kitchen
- Two double fully fitted bedrooms
- driveway for two cars, EPC=G

£109,950



Gervase Drive, DUDLEY

- Traditional Semi-detached house
- Desirable address close to Town
- Three double bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Drive/garage/large gardens
- EPC=D

Offers Around £179,950



NEW PRICE Himley Avenue, DUDLEY

- Semi-detached House
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Modern open plan ground floor layout
- Driveway and a detached garage
- EPC=D, STAMP DUTY PAID

£135,000



Holt Road, HALESOWEN

- Traditional End Terraced House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen and Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Long rear garden
- NO CHAIN, EPC=F
- IDEAL BUY TO LET £520PCM

£99,950



NEW PRICE Ivy House Lane, COSELEY

- Large semi-detached house
- Four bedrooms and bathroom
- Two reception rooms, dining kitchen
- Garage, driveway and large rear garden
- No upward chain, EPC = E
- REDUCED BY £2,500

£137,500



Wrens Nest Road, DUDLEY

- Semi-detached house
- Deep gated frontage
- Long rear gardens
- Three Bedrooms
- DG, GCH, EPC=D
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£94,950

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PENSNETT

QUEEN STREET

Providing very spacious EXTENDED gas C/H and Upvc DG accom ideal for the larger family, this splendid 4 Bed Detached is pleasantly and conveniently positioned in this well known address. This 2 Bedrommed Victorian End Terraced provides deceptively spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation throughout. Superb Standard Specification includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, splendiferous "L" shaped Breakfast Kitchen with built-in oven, hob and integrated fridge and freezer, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower, 2 good BedRooms and private rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect.EPC-D

Offers around £194,950



AMBLESSCOTE

KING WILLIAM STREET

Pleasantly situated in this popular, long established address, this 2 Bedrommed Victorian End Terraced provides deceptively spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation throughout. Superb Standard Specification includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, splendiferous "L" shaped Breakfast Kitchen with built-in oven, hob and integrated fridge and freezer, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower, 2 good BedRooms and private rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect.EPC-D

Offers around £99,950



BRIERLEY HILL

MOOR STREET

Pleasantly situated in this popular, long established address, this 2 Bedrommed Semi-Detached provides deceptively spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation throughout. Superb Standard Specification includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, splendiferous "L" shaped Breakfast Kitchen with built-in oven, hob and integrated fridge and freezer, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower, 2 good BedRooms and private rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect.EPC-E

Offers around £84,950



QUARRY BANK

BOWER LANE

This attractively presented, extended 4 Bed Semi-Detached is pleasantly situated in a corner position in this popular address and provides spacious gas centrally heated and Upvc double glazed family home. Features include a large lounge, Separate Dining Room, 'L' shaped kitchen with Good Bekith and separate Utility Room, Double Glazed Rear Gardens with Southerly facing aspect and Driveway for 2 cars to the front.EPC-D

Offers around £173,950



QUARRY BANK

NEW STREET

This spacious 4 Bed Detached Bungalow is pleasantly situated off a prime driveway in this popular and convenient address and provides generously proportioned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation throughout. Superb Standard Specification includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN WITH BUILT IN OVEN, HOB, FRIDGE FREEZER AND DISHWASHER, Laundry/Utility with washing machine and dryer, Excellent Shower Room, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, larger than average Garage low maintenance Gardens with private aspect and Driveway.EPC-D

Offers around £169,950



QUARRY BANK

BRICK KILN STREET

Large, well kept 3 Bed Detached Cottage on large "L"-shaped plot, kept in excellent condition. Gas C/H and UPVC DG accom. Lounge, sep Dining Room, Large Kitchen/Diner, Down W.C., Utility Room, 3 Excellent BedRooms, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, Double Glazing, Metal Gates and side Driveway providing parking for 2/3 cars. OUTLINE PLANNING CONSENT FOR ERCTION OF 2/3 BEDROOMED EXTENSION HOUSE TO ACCOMMODATE OVER 3 FLOORS TO INCLUDE AN INTEGRAL GARAGE AND CAR PORT. APPLICATION NUMBER P08/1289/E1. EPC-E

Offers around £155,000



KINGSWINFORD

STANDHILLS ROAD

Most pleasantly situated in this ever popular address this greatly improved 3 Bedrommed Semi-Detached house provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation throughout. Superb Standard Specification includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Two Double BedRooms, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, pleasant lawned Rear Gardens with feature raised decked terrace and pleasant private aspect and impressive wide block paved Driveway to the front from EPC-D

Offers around £149,950



BRIERLEY HILL

DELPH ROAD

This traditional 2 Bed Detached Bungalow provides refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation throughout. The retired owners have carefully maintained this in the retired address. Available WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN, the accommodation includes a spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Two Double BedRooms, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, pleasant lawned mature Rear Garden and Block Paved Driveway to the Front. EPC-D

Offers around £132,500



BROCKMOOR

FOXFOOT DRIVE

This superbly presented Modern 2 Bed Semi is very pleasantly situated off a private driveway leading from this popular cul-de-sac and represents a splendid opportunity for the first time buyer or young couple. GAS CENTRALLY HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING the deceptively spacious accommodation includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, Lounge, SUPERB RE-FITTED DINING KITCHEN, Sun Room, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, two Double BedRooms, SUMPTUOUS RE-APPOINTED SHOWER ROOM, pleasant lawned rear Gardens, block paved driveway and additional parking space in small bay opposite.EPC-D

Offers around £116,500



RUSSELLS HALL

MINEHEAD ROAD

This lovingly and delightfully presented 2 Bedrommed Semi-Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation throughout. Superb Standard Specification includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Two Double BedRooms, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, pleasant lawned Rear Gardens with summerhouse and store, Side Garage, Car Port and Driveway for 2 cars. EPC-D

Offers around £115,000



BROCKMOOR

HULLAND PLACE

This Modern 2 Bedrommed Intermediate Townhouse provides deceptively spacious deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation throughout. Superb Standard Specification includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Two Double BedRooms, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, pleasant lawned Rear Gardens with summerhouse and store, Side Garage, Car Port and Driveway for 2 cars. EPC-C

Offers around £94,995



BROCKMOOR

BRIARS CLOSE

This attractively presented Modern 2 Bedrommed Intermediate Townhouse provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation throughout. Superb Standard Specification includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, Lounge, Separate REFITTED DINING KITCHEN WITH BUILT IN OVEN AND HOB, SUN ROOM, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, two Double BedRooms, SUMPTUOUS RE-APPOINTED SHOWER ROOM, pleasant lawned rear Gardens, block paved driveway and additional parking space in small bay opposite.EPC-E

Offers around £94,950



BROCKMOOR

NEWTON

Enjoying a pleasant position in this popular address overlooking the grounds of the church, this 2 Bed Intermediate Townhouse provides well planned accommodation with UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and represents a super opportunity for the discerning first time buyer or young family. The accommodation includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, Lounge, Dining Kitchen with built-in oven, hob and integrated dishwasher, Two Double BedRooms, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, Enclosed Low Maintenance Rear Garden and Gravelled Rear Garden.EPC-B

Offers around £90,995



BROCKMOOR

CRESSETT LANE

Pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address, this Victorian 2 Bedrommed Semi-Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation throughout. Superb Standard Specification includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, Lounge, Dining Kitchen with built-in oven, hob and integrated dishwasher, Two Double BedRooms, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, Enclosed Low Maintenance Rear Garden and Gravelled Rear Garden.EPC-B

Offers around £77,950

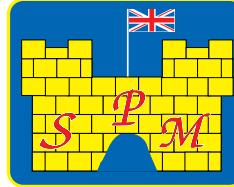


QUARRY BANK

HIGH STREET

Attractively presented Modern 2 Bed First Floor Flat providing refreshingly spacious gas centrally heated and Upvc double glazed accom ideal for the First Time Buyer, single person or Investor, and forms part of a custom built development. The accommodation includes a superb 27' FT KITCHEN, Lounge, Separate REFITTED DINING KITCHEN, Sun Room, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, two Double BedRooms, Fitted Bathrooms with shower, enclosed low maintenance rear Garden and car parking space. EPC-D

Offers around £64,995



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STATION ROAD

£495 pcm

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two BedRooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Off Road Parking

SWAN STREET

£560 pcm

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Cloakroom, Three BedRooms, Bathroom, Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

THE PORTWAY

£385 pcm

First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, BedRooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

DADFORD VIEW

£465 pcm

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two BedRooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front Garden, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

WORDSLEY

NEW

COSELEY

NEW

PEDMORE

NEW

DUDLEY

NEW

MARINE CRESCENT

£550 pcm

Semi Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

SALCOMBE GROVE

£545 pcm

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three BedRooms, Bathroom, Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

LANSOWNE CRT, HAGLEY ROAD

£500 pcm

Ground Floor Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Communal Gardens, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFORD

NEW

PENSNETT

NEW

NETHERTON

NEW

PENSNETT

NEW

MOSS GROVE

£750 pcm

Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, Additional Reception/4th Bedroom, Three First Floor BedRooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking for 2/3 cars, Front & Rear Gardens

CHURCH STREET

£575 pcm

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Three BedRooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

SWAN STREET

£375 pcm

Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Cellar, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

HIGH STREET

£410 pcm

First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Three BedRooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

CENTRAL DRIVE

£550 pcm

Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three BedRooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

OAKTHORPE GARDENS

£420 pcm

Purpose Built flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, Bathroom, Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

TIPTON

NEW

DUDLEY

NEW

WOODSETTON

NEW

DUDLEY

NEW

TIPPS STONE CLOSE

£410 pcm

First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

BOURNE STREET

£375 pcm

Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Large Bedroom, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking

FLAVELL STREET

£525 pcm

Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, WC, Three BedRooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking EPC -D

BRIERLEY HILL

NEW

PENSNETT

NEW

DUDLEY

NEW

BRIERLEY HILL

NEW

DADFORD VIEW

£460 pcm

Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Front & Side Garden, Available Early March

HIGH STREET

£320 pcm

Split Level Flat, Entrance Hall, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Two BedRooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Available Early March

MONCRIEFFE CLOSE

£415 pcm

Purpose Built Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Private Parking, UNFURNISHED

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Ticks all the boxes when off-road

By Sharon Walters

I HAVE a friend who does a lot of off-roading, including some pretty tough driving challenges. And this female has a fair income to fund her hobby, so she can afford pretty much whatever she wants to drive.

Her choice? A cheap and cheerful Suzuki Jimny.

"It's compact which means I can get just about anywhere I want to squeeze, it's chunky and copes with the bumps and grinds, and because it hasn't cost me the earth I won't wince if I do any damage," she explained.

So when I got the latest Jimny on test, I took her out for a bit of a spin – well not quite literally. A quick trip to her home to pick her up proved the other thing she told me, it's not that hot on roads and is a bit basic. Well they do say you get what you pay for. On the other hand, she added, because it is small you can park it in some very tight places if you pop into town to do some shopping.

And so off we trundled across the fields at her home. Some fair slopes, a lot of mud and tyres that were not specifically off-road, proved to me just what the car can do. For a car so small it copes magnificently with bumps although on the road the ride can be a little tough. We had a



The Suzuki Jimny, a budget-priced off-roader, gets to work in difficult conditions

great deal of fun and Jenny is now upgrading her old Jimny.

Jimny has a neat and practical look and since sales began in 1998, it has accumulated a loyal following of repeat customers who enjoy a quirky alternative to a supermini or crossover SUV.

The 1.3 litre engine may appear small but it gives lively performance and decent fuel economy. Maximum torque is delivered from as low as 2,500rpm, which Jimny the kind of flex-

ible driving character and pulling power that makes it so good off road. The seats give good support, especially needed for those driving challenges.

There's a good level of standard equipment across two trim levels: SZ3 and SZ4.

The entry level SZ3 models include; front fog lamps, roof rails, remote central locking, ABS with EBD, push button selectable four-wheel drive with high and low ratios and automatic freewheeling hubs. SZ4 models add even more

specification as standard including air conditioning; 10 spoke 15in alloy wheels, latest design seat trim with 'Jimmy' badging to front seat facings, black and silver-finish roof rails, leather steering wheel trim, chrome plated interior door handles and rear privacy glass.

The driving position is high and commands an excellent all-round view. All on board enjoy plenty of headroom, increasing the sense of spaciousness created by the large glass area. Rearward visibility is aided by large, electrically operated door mirrors and a spare wheel mounted low on the rear door.

Toughness

Since its launch in 1998, Jimny's separate, full box-section chassis has established a strong reputation for durability and toughness.

The rigid front and rear axles are attached to the chassis by a three-link arrangement, with an anti-roll bar fitted at the front. This well-proven design, controlled by long-travel coil springs and gas dampers, is configured to cope with the demands of rough surfaces, while ensuring a refined and compliant ride on conventional roads.

Suzuki's Drive Select 4x4 system features a transfer box with high or low-ratio four-wheel drive. The freewheeling front hubs are engaged automatically and four-wheel drive can be selected on the move while travelling in a straight line at speeds of up to 62 mph. Jimny is fundamentally designed to cope with off-road conditions with 190mm ground clearance, approach and departure angles of 34° and 46°

respectively, and a ramp angle of 31°.

Jimny's chassis offers extreme rigidity in the event of a collision and is designed to absorb energy from all directions in a controlled manner. Progressive, reassuring braking performance is provided by large front discs and rear drums, supported by ABS with EBD (Electronic Brakeforce Distribution).

Airbags for driver and front passenger, side impact protection beams and height adjustable front seat belt anchorages are all standard, and the powerful multi-reflector halogen headlamps are complemented by the front bumper-mounted fog lamps.

A wide range of Suzuki genuine accessories are available. I have the perfect buyer for one of these. Aside from keen off-roaders, those who live in the country need a standby car with four-wheel capability to cope with the ever more difficult winter (and summer) weather we are getting, with flooded roads and snow and ice on the increase, and one that doesn't cost a lot of money.

Bumper to bumper

Suzuki Jimny
Engine: 1.3-litre four-cylinder 85bhp
Performance: Top speed 87mph
Economy: 39.8mpg (combined cycle)
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Price: From £11,295

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂. Zafira 1.6i 16v VVT (Manual5), Manual 5-speed: Urban 32.5 (8.7), Extra-urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 42.2 (6.7). CO₂ emissions 157g/km.

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New Peugeot 308 is looking pretty good

PEUGEOT has released first images of the New 308, a car launched to revitalise the brand's position in the ultra-competitive, compact family hatchback segment.

"The new Peugeot 308 has a pure and technological exterior design that speaks of high strength and high quality," says Gilles Vidal, Design Director, Peugeot.

With its compact length of 4.25 metres and well-balanced proportions, the New Peugeot 308 projects a classy and sophisticated presence.

The front is dominated by an evolutionary reinterpretation of the brand's 'floating' front grille, and by the strong lighting signature. Slim full-LED headlamps are standard on the majority of trim levels and a world-first in the segment.

The high quality of design continues at the rear, with the three Peugeot (lion) 'claws' drawn by the rear LED lamps.

"When inside the car, one discovers a world of refined style, completely original in the world of hatchback cars, with a cockpit that is intense, innovative and intuitive; it is the Peugeot i-cockpit," says Vincent Devos, New 308 Product Manager, Peugeot.

Peugeot's design and engineering teams have developed the interior of the New 308 around the concept of the i-cockpit.

Everything is arranged for an experience that is intuitive, relaxing the driver to focus entirely on the road ahead. The compact steering wheel and head-up instrument layout mean that information can be clearly read easily and safely, looking over rather than through the wheel.

The highlight of the New 308's generously spaced cabin is the 9.7-inch touch-screen interface, which removes much of the need for physical buttons and switches. Setting a new size standard for the class, it brings together many of the infotainment controls in one place, for ease of use and to create a contemporary and uncluttered cabin.

Advanced new modular platform gives an outstanding driving experience.

"On the road, driving pleasure is enhanced by the new EMP2 modular platform. With its considerable reduction in weight, it contributes to the dynamism and easy handling of the New Peugeot 308," says Laurent Declercq, New 308 Project Director, Peugeot.

The driving experience of the New Peugeot 308 draws on the brand's expertise in suspension and steering, and takes them to a new high due to the benefits of the new EMP2 platform.

Development of this new PSA Group architecture has resulted in 116 patent applications and contributes towards



One of the highlights of the new Peugeot 308 is its interior cabin which is packed with goodies

the vehicle's excellent dynamic qualities. It also plays a key role in the car's considerable weight reduction, by an average of 140kg compared to the current generation Peugeot 308.

Breakthrough engineering has allowed many of the vehicle's major units to be reduced in size – also cutting overall weight - leading to significant reductions in CO₂ emissions. As a result, this new Peugeot 308 establishes an environmental benchmark, with one model offering CO₂ emissions as low as 85g/km.

The New Peugeot 308 is the latest evidence of the brand's move up-market. It's an initiative started several years ago and seen most recently with the 208 and 2008.

The initial design brief of the New 308 had the highest levels of quality at its core. This ambition has guided the designers and engineers from the very start of the project.

Every element, both inside and outside, has been developed and refined with exceptional attention to detail. The choice of high quality interior materials and the satin chrome or gloss black detailing add to the feeling of sophistication and maturity in the car's design and assembly. The New Peugeot 308 will be built at the Sochaux plant in France. The Trémery and Douvrin sites will supply all of the power units.

The New Peugeot 308 will make its world premiere at the Frankfurt Motor Show on 10th September 2013, when more information about this innovative new model will be released. Sales will start shortly afterwards in mainland Europe and from January 2014 in the UK.

Latest model high on spec



The new 308 which Peugeot hope will revitalise their position in the family hatchback segment



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Motoring



The new-look Skoda Superb will be available with six engine options, three petrol and three diesel

Summer launch in UK for the flagship Skoda range

ŠKODA has revealed UK price and specification details for its updated Superb flagship model.

Having undergone a comprehensive facelift, both hatch and estate versions offer a fresh and attractive design, an upgraded interior and significantly improved fuel economy and CO2 emissions. On sale in the UK from July 17, prices for the facelifted Superb range start at just £18,555 (OTR) for the 1.4-litre TSI 125PS S hatch. The top-of-the-range Laurin & Klement Estate model costs £32,455 (OTR) when paired with the 2.0 TDI CR 170PS DPF

engine, 4x4 and 6spd Direct Shift Gearbox (DSG). Diesel versions start from £19,760 (OTR). The premium for the estate over its hatch sibling is £1,125.

The Superb facelift will be available in the UK with six advanced engine options: three petrol and three diesel. Power outputs range from 105PS (1.6 TDI CR) to 260PS for the 3.6 V6 model.

Engines are up to 19 per cent more economical than the previous generation units, and a fuel-efficient GreenLine version offers emissions of only 109g/km. The fleet sector will make a significant contribution to Superb sales, and with BiK starting at just 16

per cent, and more rear legroom than most prestige cars, the Superb's appeal is obvious.

Alasdair Stewart, Brand Director for ŠKODA UK, said: "The Superb continues ŠKODA's tradition of offering a huge amount of space, engineering excellence and great value for money.

"Since its launch 12-years-ago, the Superb has been lauded for its versatility, comfort and equipment. This comprehensive facelift builds on these and we are confident that the excellent improvements to fuel consumption and CO2 will appeal to both fleet and private customers."

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Cricket

ASTWOOD BANK moved seven points clear of Hagley in Division One of the Worcester Cricket League.

The Bank took a two-wicket win at Droitwich while Hagley piled up the runs at home to Redditch but were unable to force victory. Hagley amassed 321-8 despite the efforts of James Bevan who took 6-110. Redditch clung on at 239-9 but dropped to fourth as Worcester overtook them by beating Pershore at home.

Bellbroughton climbed to fifth with a win at Oldswinford. Burghill achieved their first win in Division One, beating Bromyard by two wicket. Dominies defeated bottom-placed Pedmore by two wickets thanks to 118 not out from John Hancock.

Bewdley won again in Division Two but by just three wickets at Wormelow and their lead was cut from seven points to three by Envile who crushed Rushwick in less than 15 overs.

Feckenham and Harvington took their third wins out of four matches against Cooms Wood and Cookley respectively. Tenbury fell to Netheriton who snatched their first win of 2013. In the other match, Colwall beat Stourport.

Narrow

Division Three leaders Lye stayed top after a narrow win at home to Romsley and now lead Avoncroft - who beat Social - by just one point. Malvern are third following their draw at home to bottom side Himley.

For Malvern, Andy Cullen made 88 and so just missed out on his third successive ton while Himley's Matthew Bowen carried his bat for 35.

Birlingham won their first match, beating Alvechurch, Himbleton beat Ross and Harborne drew at Alveley.

Division Four saw Old Vigorians stay top with a maximum 24-point win for the third week running by beating Halesowen.

Cleobury Mortimer beat Chaddesley while Bartestree won at Kidderminster despite a ton from Paul Mitchell.

Bromsgrove beat Old Hill and Barnards Green had Matt Brookes' spell of 8-46 to thank for their win over West Malvern.

In Division Five, Claverley and Martley both maintained 100 per cent records.

True grit as Jones battles into the finals

DUDLEY boxer Connor Jones has reached the junior ABA national finals, writes Craig Birch.

Jones, from Lions ABC in Dudley, reached his first national final in five years by coming through at Great Barr Leisure Centre.

This weekend's final at Mansfield will be the first for Jones since the Schoolboys in 2008 after another unanimous points win that all appeared to hinge on the third and last round.

After two fairly even sessions, Lions trainer John Shakespeare beat Walsall Wood ABC's Joseph Stevenson scored a sensational third-round stoppage to join clubmate Daniel Breeze in the finals.

Great Barr has staged the pre-quarter, quarter and Sunday's semi-finals and it's proved to be a

back out to win the fight. Jones bit down on his gum-shield and traded punches with James Thompson, from Wellingtons ABC in Middlesbrough, launching left hooks and right back hands.

He took shots along the way and had to brave it out against the Northerner who reached a Clubs for Young People national final last year, to take the judges' decision.

Walsall Wood ABC's Joseph Stevenson scored a sensational third-round stoppage to join clubmate Daniel Breeze in the finals.

Great Barr has staged the pre-quarter, quarter and Sunday's semi-finals and it's proved to be a

happy hunting ground for Stevenson.

He has blazed a trail at 71kg in the most senior section - Class Six, for boxers born in 1995 - and has now taken out George Parrish, from Beartown ABC in Cheshire.

Parrish fell for the same move moments later after his hands came down as he looked to jab his

way out of trouble, forcing the man in the middle to call for the bell.

Breeze was nearly as comprehensive a winner at 66kg in Class Five - boxers born in 1996 - against Cory Fenwick, from Horden ABC in County Durham, in a points victory.

The West Midlands entrant worked almost exclusively with his jab and popped it out to negate Fenwick's attacks, turning his fists into screw shots for added effect.

He commanded the ring throughout the three rounds to record a unanimous points victory and safe passage into the two-time ABA Schoolboys champion's third

final. But Wednesbury ABC's Jack Wood is out after a majority points loss despite a valiant effort against his nemesis Luke McCormack, from Birtley Boys ABC in Northumberland.

McCormack also put him out of the CYP national semi-finals last year and Wood was clearly keen to avenge that defeat after taking the fight to the England international.

Wood got straight on McCormack and forced him to counter-punch on the back foot.

But he struggled with the hand speed of his talented adversary, particularly as fatigue set in, and just missed out on points.

Beacon's triumph down to the teens

Tales from The Bratch

BEACON'S teenage brigade combined to lead the victory charge in their Staffs Clubs Premier Division clash at Wednesbury, writes Nick Elwell.

After winning the toss and inserting their hosts, three-wicket hauls from 17-year-old Tom Elwell (3-15) and 19-year-old Matt Briggs (3-42) helped Beacon hold Wednesbury to 171-9.

Wednesbury were indebted to Kulveer Badhan's unbeaten 59 which held their innings together, Tahir Mohammed contributing 28.

Beacon were reduced to 52-3 in reply but Elwell and 19-year-old South African import James Baikoff then joined forces to guide the visitors home with an unbroken century stand. Baikoff took the lead role as he finished on 66 not out with Elwell unbeaten on 47.

Tie

Skipper Martin Smith led the Beacon reply with 63 while Ed Stevenson chipped in with 27 to leave the hosts needing two to win from the final ball. But they had to settle for a tie due to a run-out going for the second run.

Jon Forster rolled back the years as the thirds bagged a winning draw against Hammerwich.

Forster struck 111 out of Beacon's total of 191-9. Hammerwich were then restricted to 140-7 in reply with two wickets apiece for Anthony Hartwell and Callum Westwood.

Beacon suffered a double reverse in the Worcestershire Sunday League.

James Baikoff struck 61 and Jamie Dunn 28 as Beacon posted 198-8 from 40 overs against Stourbridge.

Stourbridge held their nerve to edge home with one ball to spare and six wickets in hand.

Beacon's seconds went down by 66 runs in the reverse fixture. Stourbridge rattled up 213-2 with Beacon ending on 147-9. Chris Burns top scored with 33 not out with Mike Hartwell and Jake Cartwright adding 32 and 31 respectively.

Heathens will be going full throttle in the cup

DUDLEY HEATHENS are targeting a big lead from their home Knockout Cup clash with Buxton as they try to expunge last season's heartache.

Dudley host the Hitmen at Monmore Green on Tuesday (7.30pm) with their thoughts still turning to last year's KO Cup final. The Heathens lost Byron Bekker to a broken leg in heat three of the first leg at Mildenhall, and lost 61-33.

A 51-37 success in the return proved to be of little consolation, and team boss Will Pottinger says the 2012 disappointment makes him even more determined to go one better.

Dudley will be at full strength for the tie with the return leg in Derbyshire on Sunday, June 23.

Heathens also go to Redcar next Thursday for a challenge match which is a welcome addition to the fixture list.

Pottinger said: "This is a big meeting for us on Tuesday. We will start as clear favourites, but we're not going to take anything for granted."

"We want a decent lead to take to Buxton for the return fixture next month. We got to the final last year and we need to match that."

"It was hurtful to lose the final last year, although not as much as it was to lose the league by a point (in the play-off final)!"

"But we have to get past Buxton and I want to see us do a good job on Tuesday to take the pressure off in the return."

Heathens were due to ride at home to King's Lynn in the National League two

Speedway

days ago and head to Sheffield tonight which means they have four meetings in a fortnight.

Pottinger said the fixtures would provide vital track time for the side.

"Especially for the four riders not involved in the Premier League - Max Clegg, Nathan Greaves, Dan Greenwood and Gareth Isherwood - it is going to be very useful," he said.

"It's also a chance to visit a new track (Sheffield) and take on some Premier League opposition, although they won't be fielding their full side."

"Then we've got Buxton in the KO Cup on Tuesday."

"We should definitely be right back up to speed by then, so we will be hoping to get a big win."

"Finally we have Redcar next Thursday which, like Sheffield, is a good opportunity to ride a new track and get some more track time."

"We are hoping we can continue the good run we had at the start of this season."

Colron are stung as Wasps grab the silverware



Wordsley Wasps North Under-11 are all smiles after winning the Stourbridge Charity Cup. The Wasps showed their sting by beating Colron Boys 2-0 in the final with Jack Perry and Ben Worthington their scorers.

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Shrews dismiss Himley for 135

Cricket

HIMLEY suffered their second defeat on the bounce when they went down by 74 runs to Shrewsbury in the Birmingham Premier League.

The Shropshire side scored 209-9 batting first, thanks to Rob Foster's 63.

In response, Himley were dismissed for just 135, Nathan Round top-scoring with 34.

Kidderminster Victoria were pushed all the way by bottom of the table Walmley before prevailing by two wickets.

The hosts battled to 186-8 thanks to Shoaqir Ali's unbeaten 50 and, despite a bright start which saw them reach 49 without losing a wicket, Kidderminster were reliant on a fine 31 from Ben Cox to see them over the line.

West Bromwich Dartmouth cantered to an eight-wicket success at Wombourne.

In Division One, winless Old Hill's miserable start to the season continued as they crashed to a 103-run defeat at home to Kenilworth Wardens.

Elliott Wilson took 4-48 for the hosts but an unbeaten 100 from Warwickshire's Tom Allin saw the visiting side to an impressive 271-9.

In reply, Dimitri Ratnayake top-scored with 45 but the rest of the home batting line-up were blown away for a disappointing 168.

Halesowen's good form in Division Two continued with a 36-run win away at Water Orton.

Jones falls at the first

BRIERLEY HILL darter Mark Jones fell at the first hurdle in Germany.

A tough draw paired him with world No.16 Terry Jenkins in the PDC's European Darts Open.

'Little Mon' took two legs but couldn't stop 'the Bull' charging into the second round with a 6-2 win at the Maritim Hotel in Dusseldorf on Friday night.

Dutchman Michael van Gerwen was the overall winner, although he was taken to a deciding leg by Wolverhampton's Wayne Jones in round two. Van Gerwen fired 140, 140 and 180 before finishing his 41 on double top in an 11-darter.

Wombourne

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Wasps sting

Trophy time for under-11 team

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Full throttle

Heathens to chase a big cup lead

Page 51

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Another season like this and they'll need a bigger table – players from Bush Athletic at their pub base



Bush hosts Andrew and Susan Price with the team's silverware

Wembley walk for Louis, 9

A NINE-YEAR-OLD Rowley Regis boy is preparing to walk out at Wembley.

Louis Hinton will be one of the player escorts at the stadium when England face the Republic of Ireland for the first time since 1995 on Wednesday, May 29.

Hinton will tread the famous turf with the likes of Theo Walcott, Joe Hart and Wayne Rooney.

He won his spot after entering a national competition via the McDonald's Kickstart website.

"It will be amazing to walk out with the England players at Wembley," he said.

"I can't wait to tell all my friends what it was like."

Sir Geoff Hurst, McDonald's director of football, said: "Walking out onto the pitch at Wembley Stadium is an unforgettable experience."

"The atmosphere will be something else, as it always is when the home nations are playing against each other."

Hackett now looks ahead

STOURBRIDGE boss Gary Hackett is already turning to the new season as the Glassboys try to get over their play-off heartbreak.

Stourbridge went out of the Evo-Stik Southern Premier shoot-out at the semi-final stage, beaten 2-1 at home by Gosport Borough.

Hackett has arranged five pre-season friendlies – all away from home – on successive Saturdays with 3pm starts. They are:

July 13, Bromsgrove Sporting; July 20, Romulus; July 27, Evesham United; August 3, Halesowen Town; August 10, Solihull Moors.

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Euro gold success for England karate champs



European champions Emma Bradley and Audun Daniels flying the flag in Finland

Football

when Saunders' effort looked destined for the net.

In the second period,

Garvey again denied the suffering Saunders and with just three minutes left,

Bennett shattered Pensnett hearts with a breakaway goal.

Yet Pensnett's Alex Perry equalised and there was yet another twist when Bush hit the post with virtually the game's last kick.

It was all-square at 3-3 after penalties and the teams were locked through sudden death until Pensnett missed and Bush converted their ninth spot-kick.

Bush Athletic 2 Pensnett United 2 (aet, full-time score 1-1, Bush won 6-5 on penalties)

With a second cup final looming, this was hardly the game Bush needed.

Pensnett broke the deadlock on 33 minutes at the Dudley Sports ground when a quick break saw the ball played out to Alex Perry on the right wing. His cross was whipped across, just outside the six-yard box, and buried at the far post by Kyle Smith.

Ten minutes later, Bush levelled with a similar strike.

Quick

Again it was a quick break down the right and Adam Harris sent an inch-perfect cross to the far post for David Brown to score.

Both teams had their chances in the second half but there were no further goals.

On 69 minutes, Pensnett cramp victim Smith was replaced by Shaun Saunders and six minutes later Bush brought on Kieran Bennett for Lance Flavel.

There were few opportunities in extra-time and once again it all came down to the dreaded penalty shoot-out.

Again Bush won through – this time inside the regulation five kicks – with Garvey making the vital save.

TWO Dudley area karate stars have scooped five European gold medals between them.

Audun Daniels and Emma Bradley of Fortknocks Kimura Shukokai, travelled with the SKF national karate team to Helsinki, Finland to compete in the KSF European karate championships.

Bradley, competing in her first international tournament, showed the benefits of hard work by adding to her recent national title.

She took gold in the girls' 12-13 years individual kumite (fighting) event, beating a fellow England squad member in a closely-contested final.

She was also part of the winning 12-14 years team kata (forms) that struck gold.

Club instructor Daniels had a hugely impressive competition, taking three gold and a silver. He won the male individual heavyweight 80-plus kg kumite event and the male individual kata.

Daniels was also part of the winning men's kumite team which won silver in the adult senior team kata event.

Both competitors are now looking forward to the world championships in South Africa next year.

All the trips are self-funded and both would welcome any sponsorship. Contact Daniels on 07903 954894.